

Choice of Stansted as airport for London likely to reopen battle

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

The choice by the Government yesterday of Stansted as the site for an expanded airport will, the £1,350m

Group on South-east Airports which, with the Advisory Committee on Airports Policy, advised the Government on sites, the total cost of Stansted

Like that we have accepted in order not to hold back the business of the conference," he said. "Things which we believe in are in due course reality in the interests of everybody."

The agreement yesterday was in doubt until the last moment and was the result of extensive heart searching by both wings of the Patriotic Front. Britain had made it clear that there were no further concessions to be had after the granting of the sixteenth assembly place on which the British side felt the Patriotic Front had made a strong case.

Mr Robert Mugabe after the ceasefire agreement.

democratic society in Zimbabwe free from racism and the exploitation of man by man."

The ceasefire is to start seven days after tomorrow's signing and come fully into effect when the ceasefire is signed. The period between signature and ceasefire day will be used for the deployment of the British and Commonwealth monitoring forces, now standing by to try to Rhodesia, and the dismantling of the Rhodesian forces.

The second seven days will be for the assembly of the Patriotic Front forces, under their own commanders and the services of the monitoring troops. The nature of arrange-

ing terms to accommodate the Patriotic Front forces started in Rhodesia yesterday.

Mr Mugabe made it clear that the Patriotic Front did not believe a ceasefire could be imposed on Rhodesia.

"The practical realities will prove it impossible in seven days," he said, "and demonstrate the Patriotic Front's contention that it needs six to eight weeks to come true."

Mr Mugabe said more reserved than Mr Nkomo, Mr Mugabe said that the overall agreement had certain shortcomings such as racial representation in the Parliament which was contentious to him, and Amalinda said: "Theresa

assembly will be to inform the Governor, on the advice of the cressfire commission; the rule of thumb is 1,000 men to each assembly area.

Mr Nicholas Fenn, the British ambassador, flew to Salisbury last night to become press spokesman for Lord Soames.

Our Washington Correspondent writes: News of the imminent peace agreement reached between Mr. Thatcher and the P.M. at the British Embassy here. Announcing that she had just signed that Patriotic Front representatives were about to inspect the document, the Prime Minister paid tribute to the American Administration for its role in the peace settlement.

Make emblem, lifted, rose.

American officials cautioned, however, that a final decision to pass for sanctions had not yet been taken. They said that a number of options were still under review.

Earlier at a welcoming ceremony at the White House, Lewis-Brace and Thatcher said that every British home had been following anxiously the events in London. The crisis, they said, reflected on the hegemony, has aroused the indignation of the civilized world," she told Mr. Carter.

The British people admired the "patience, wisdom and self-restraint" of the American people had reacted to the crisis, she said, and Mr. Carter had won "enormous respect" in Britain for the "statesmanship, calmness and courage" with which he had faced an "agonizing problem."

It was not an easy time for America, but the British were there to aid. "We do support you, we shall support you and let there be no mistake about it," she said to applause.

Continued on page 5, col 6

he executed

Paris, Dec. 17.—Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, an Iranian Islamic judge, said in an interview published here today that he was the leader of a group of specially-trained commandos who would kill all members of the deposed Shah's family.

"We will execute without trial all the members of the royal family," said Ayatollah (the Shah's wife)—all of them and all the Signatories of the old regime, and Bakhtiar (Mohammad Reza Pahlavi's former Prime Minister), Ayatollah Khalkhali told the French leftist daily *Liberation*.

Ayatollah Khalkhali was quoted as saying that he was responsible for at least 200 executions in Iran.

He went on: "Our commandos exist on: Our commandos have been trained in different countries, especially Palestinian but also elsewhere, including the United States".

Asked about the American hostages in Tehran, the ayatollah said:

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Strong criticism of Britain's negotiating stance at the meeting in Dublin of European Economic Community leaders over the country's budgetary contribution to the Community was made last night by Mr Edward Heath, the former Conservative Prime Minister.

The implication of his speech was that Mrs Margaret Thatcher had made a misjudgment in her tactical approach to Britain's position.

Mr Heath told a meeting in London: "I believe that the seriousness with which the British treated this budgetary problem would have been more creditable to our partners if we had put forward specific proposals for more Community spending in Britain, preferably of a sort that would benefit the European Economic Community as a whole."

The Government had indicated that it saw increased Community spending in Britain as one way of contributing to a solution to the problem. "Yet

name was mentioned in Mr Heath's speech at Chatham House, on the occasion of the Adam Bencklof Prize.

While Mr Heath expressed full understanding as to why the Europeans had rejected the Community's 1980 Budget, the speech appeared little in his speech which supported the British Government's stance.

He questioned the position adopted by the Government at a meeting of Council ministers.

"Our partners must be assessing themselves how successful they will be in carrying out demands for reform of the common agricultural policy and for a more equitable distribution of the Budget if ministers vote against the Parliament's cuts in agricultural spending," he said.

"Our veto must have been made all the more perplexing to them by the fact that the British vote for the Parliament's amendments would have ensured the adoption."

"A strong British lead in creating an effective common

By Staff Reporters

The Turkish Airlines office in Hanover Square in London's West End was damaged by an explosion last night.

A group calling itself the Front for the Liberation of Armenia claimed responsibility for the attack, which the *Agence France-Presse* Police said the IRA was not considered responsible.

The police said the 1½b device was either thrown from a passing car or placed against a wall.

Only one casualty was reported, suffering from shock.


The small street connecting Hanover Square with Regent Street was filled with firefighters looking at the Christmas decorations.

The police issued a general warning last night for the public to be wary about any unsolicited mail, specially from the area.


A bomb later exploded at Dover yesterday at lunchtime.

Two sorters were shaken when the device exploded inside a mailbag at Charlton Green sorting office.

The mailbag was on a conveyor belt.



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General Secretary of the
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Ministries fail Churchill behavior

Two women were killed and several other people were injured yesterday when gales swept Scotland, Northern Ireland and the north of England.

Many ships were in trouble and car and lorry drivers had trouble on the roads.

One of the women who died was Lady Ballanrae, wife of the former Governor-General of New Zealand. She was crushed when a tree fell on their car near their home in the village of Ballanrae, south of Largs, Ayrshire.

Her husband escaped with minor injuries.

The other woman was killed by a falling chimney stack in the Sargren Cross area of Glasgow.

Last night 400 lorry drivers were stranded at South

waik service station on the M6 in Cumbria as a number of high-sided vehicles had been overturned by the wind and police stopped other lorries using the motorway.

The Salvation Army issued blankets to men with blankets and a bank was set up to provide them with money.

With winds gusting up to 80 mph causing havoc all over Scotland, there were fears last night for a climber missing in the hills.

Five mountain rescue teams, seven search and rescue dogs and an RAF helicopter were forced by blizzards to give up the search for the Gairns of Taylor, aged 30, of New Elgin, Morayshire.

Mr Taylor, married with two

young children, was on the slopes of Ben Macdui with two companions on Sunday when he disappeared in almost "white out" conditions. His friends returned safely.

The two were rescued in two other mountain incidents. Two climbers were found 2,800ft up on Ben More after spending a night on the mountain. One was rescued by helicopter. The other was guided to safety.

Three other men—including a rescuer suffering from hypothermia—were recovered in hospital last night after another incident on the same mountain.

In Glasgow, a falling tree in the Dorniebank area trapped a man and his car. The roads were closed when a building collapsed.

the first eight weeks in any tax year. Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced. The plan will be published in a Green Paper in the spring. Page 2

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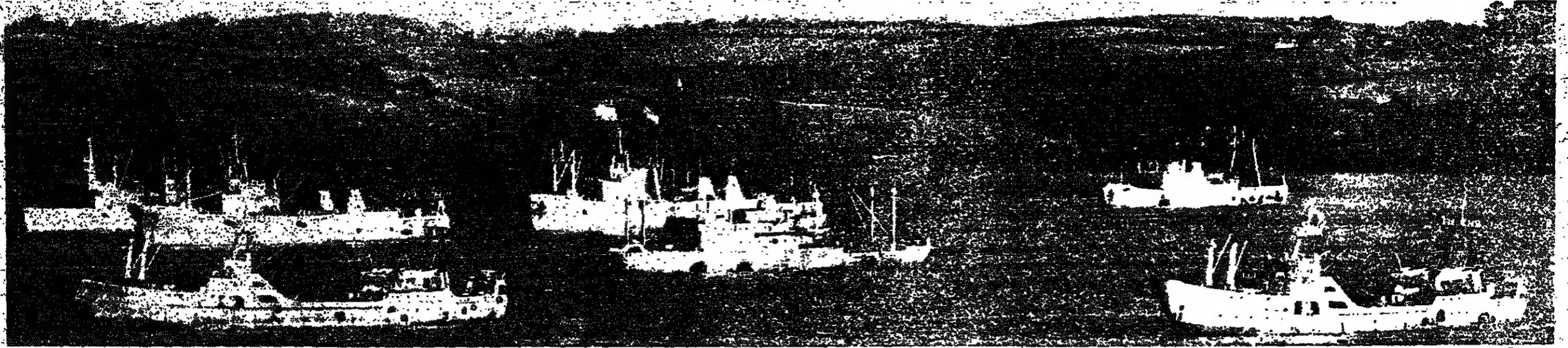
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Hospital Saving Association
30 Lancaster Gate, London W2 3LT

HOME NEWS



professionals sail in: It looks like an invasion fleet, and a way it is. Cornish waters in winter are rich in shoals of mackerel, and hundreds of boats from several countries are collected to reap the harvest (Trevor Fishlock writes).

At sea the invasion worries local men. They fear that large-scale fishing with modern methods will wipe out West Country

mackerel stocks in a few years. Past seasons, they say, are not being heeded and they cite the overfishing that has ruined herring stocks in northern waters and elsewhere.

On land, however, the shopkeepers of Falmouth are ringing their bells while the mackerel gather. The crews of foreign

ships are enthusiastic shoppers and they return to their vessels from forays ashore in boats laden with carpets, toys, clothing, drink and lingerie. Some shops even advertise women's underwear in Russian.

The arrival of "super trawlers" from Scotland and the east coast has changed the picture. They can make huge catches in just one cast of a net and they have been coming after the Cornish mackerel to help to repay the large investments made in them.

The "super trawlers" are banned from inshore waters. But fishermen in the West Country want the limit widened from three miles to six.

Opponents of Stansted expansion say they will fight all the way

Arthur Reed, Correspondent
The Government's choice of an expanded airport for London was, to say the least, thoroughly disconcerting to the thousands of people who are opposed to its expansion into the area of Stansted.

As we face the task for the third time in 14 years of trying to get thousands of people to make representations to the Government, we are confident of a success when the Government's decision has been proved, but over-ruled.

Mr. Richard Miles, vice-chairman of the association, said: "The loss of 20 homes does not sound much, but there will be no compensation for tens of thousands of people whose lives will be ruined by noise disturbance."

Mr. Norman Payne, chairman of the Greater London Council, which has favoured the development of the Stansted area, said: "The decision, or lack of it, is disappointing. We do not agree that Stansted is cheaper than Heathrow."

Mr. Derrick Wood, chairman of the Defenders of Essex and vice-president of the Sheppey Group, in Kent, said: "I am delighted to know that Stansted is safe."

Mr. Neil Mathewson, chairman of the Greater London Council, said: "We are pleased that there will be no second runway at Heathrow. But the decision to develop Stansted is sad from every body's point of view."

Mr. Richard Miles, vice-chairman of the association, said: "The loss of 20 homes does not sound much, but there will be no compensation for tens of thousands of people whose lives will be ruined by noise disturbance."

Book rights say ceiling proposed

A Staff Reporter
Proposals for ensuring that popular authors do not cream off most of the profits available under the public lending right scheme were published yesterday in a consultation document from the Government's Office of Arts and Libraries.

Under the scheme, which the Government says in the document it hopes to implement in 1982-83, financial year, authors will be entitled to pay for the number of copies of their books borrowed from public libraries.

There is a danger that the popular authors may receive a disproportionate amount, and that the maximum any one author should receive would be 50 out of every £1m available in the central fund.

The Public Lending Right scheme is an upper limit of 1 pence per copy of a book. The Government says it is a "cheap administrative cost" and that, based on a sample of 100 titles, it would cost about 70 pence per copy to administer the scheme.

Mr. Conrad Deha, QC, for the Inland Revenue, told the House of Lords yesterday that the House of Lords Revenue Committee, which is considering the proposal, has not yet reached a decision.

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Lords to decide on David Frost tax issue

The Inland Revenue began its latest attempt to get an income tax assessment on the earnings of David Frost, the television personality, yesterday.

Mr. Frost has won rulings from Tax Commissioners, a High Court judge and the House of Lords, that he is not liable to be assessed for income tax on the money.

Mr. Frost had so far successfully contended that the profits of a trade or business partnership controlled and managed abroad, and therefore, not liable to United Kingdom tax.

Without the Bahamas partnership, Mr. Frost's earnings in the United States or the United Kingdom would have been taxable, counsel added.

Mr. Frost contended that because the partnership company was outside the United Kingdom, that altered the whole tax position. That could not be right.

The hearing continues today.

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Years over Scotch imports

Our Correspondent
A government ban, but he believed pressure should be put on the industry to the point of industrial action.

The position is not encouraging, he said. "We want to get to the position where whisky is sold in Scotland only in the bottle."

Mr. John McColl, a member of the Scottish TUC working group on the industry, said that they had to protect the name "Scotch" if the industry was not to be destroyed.

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Three die as fire sweeps hostel

Three children died in a fire in a hostel for banded wives in Manchester on Sunday night. The children were in bed when the fire broke out at the home, in Stockton Road, Charlton.

Police said two beds in a first-floor room had been badly burnt.

In another fire, Stephen Rudd, aged three, died at his home in Darlington, Co. Durham yesterday.

His two brothers and an elder sister were saved by their mother, who escaped after passing through a bedroom window to a neighbour's house.

The child's body was found in the two-storey terrace council house, in Ingleby Moor Crescent.

Man died after asking for punch on jaw

Walter Hallas, 50, died after asking for a punch on the jaw. He was hit on the head and died six days later as a result of fracturing his skull, an inquest in Leeds was told yesterday.

Mr. James Walker, the coroner, recorded a finding of accidental death.

Mr. Michael Green said that the cause of death was bruising and swelling of the brain and bleeding around the brain.

Gary Anderson, aged 16, also a market worker, said he refused to hit Mr. Hallas when asked on November 2. But a workmate, Mark Waldron, aged 18, eventually did so. He told police that Mr. Hallas, aged 26, said: "Go on, it won't hurt."

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Girl 'would be ill at ease'

The only girl in a class of boys would feel ill at ease and it could affect her education, a comprehensive school headmaster said at Croydon County Court, London, yesterday during the hearing of a claim brought by Helen Whitfield, aged 14, against Croydon education authority.

Miss Whitfield, of The Wend, Coulsdon, is alleging that her former school, Woodcote High School, Coulsdon, contravened the Sex Discrimination Act by not offering her the chance to do woodwork and metalwork.

Mr. Michael Marland, head of Woodberry Down School, Finsbury Park, north London, said that a solitary boy or girl in a class made up of the opposite sex would feel extremely unhappy.

No pupil who stands out from the rest can be happy, Mr. Marland, called to give evidence for Miss Whitfield, said the skills learnt in a craft design course were an essential part of a good education.

Jury in 'vetting' case go to hotel for night

The jury in the trial at the Criminal Court of four people who, the prosecution said, were part of a band of would-be anarchists, retired yesterday to consider its verdict and last night went to a hotel for the night. It will resume considering its verdict today.

The trial opened 58 days ago with much publicity after disclosures that a panel of 93 potential jurors had been secretly vetted. The four have denied conspiracy to riot.

Judge King Hamilton, QC, described the disclosure as irresponsible, discharged the panel from serving for that trial, and ordered that a fresh panel be selected and given a similar vetting.

He also asked the Director of Public Prosecutions to investigate the circumstances in which the vetting was leaked to the press.

Modern recitals cancelled because of losses

By Our Music Reporter
The series of modern music concerts at the Festival Hall, introduced earlier this year with special subsidies through the London Orchestral Concerts Board, has been cancelled by the Arts Council because of the high cost.

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CHRISTMAS

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HOME NEWS

Couple's killer should be in jail for rest of natural life, judge says

From Arthur Osman, Nottingham

Arthur Hall, aged 38, who was sentenced to a detention Crown Court yesterday to life imprisonment for the murders of a young man and his girl friend last Easter Sunday, was told by Mr Justice Kenneth Jones: "You should be incarcerated for the rest of your natural life."

The court had been told how he shot the young man in the back of the head from close range and later said: "I did it to put him out of his misery, like I would a rabbit."

The judge told Mr Hall, of Hurst Farm Estate, Matlock, Derbyshire: "You, a man in normal mental health, destroyed these two young lives in circumstances of brutality and ruthlessness from which the human mind must recoil. These were most horrible crimes and I regard you as a highly dangerous man."

The judge added that he did not propose to recommend to the Home Secretary a minimum period for Mr Hall to serve, and continued: "I regard you as a dangerous man, and that life imprisonment should mean precisely what it says."

He considered that Mr Hall should be held for his natural life "or until such time as your



Arthur Hall: 'highly dangerous man'.

Students remain at school longer in South

By Our Education Correspondent

Wide variations in the proportion of children aged 16 to 18 remaining in full-time education in different local authority areas are disclosed in a statistical bulletin published by the Department of Education and Science. They range from 42 per cent in the London borough of Brent to only 15 per cent in Gateshead.

The statistics, for 1977-78, also show a marked tendency for more pupils to remain in full-time non-vocational education the further south they live. The staying-on rate, whether at school or further education college, starts at 20 per cent in the northern region and rises to 27 per cent in the South-east.

The bulletin says that where there is a higher proportion of non-manual workers in an area more 16 to 18-year-olds take CSE or GCE courses.

TUC call to save centre for the disadvantaged

By Our Education Correspondent

The Trades Union Congress has called on the Government to reverse its decision to close the Centre for Information and Advice on Educational Disadvantage.

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, told the House of Commons last month that the four-year-old centre had not been filled with the grant raised at its foundation and that continued grant aid from the Government of £300,000 a year would not provide value for money in meeting the needs of the disadvantaged.

Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, says in a letter to Mr Carlisle that he finds that claim extraordinary. The TUC believes that the centre was a useful and increasingly worthwhile contribution in the area of educational disadvantage.

Whitehall brief: Mr Channon causes consternation

Tories fail open government test

By Peter Hennessy

As the Prime Minister seeks new cuts to eliminate what she described as "bureaucracy and waste" wherever it is, at last Thursday's meeting of the 1922 Committee, a survey conducted by The Times has shown that some departments have failed to provide the 10, 15 and 20 per cent options for cuts for which she called in June.

Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, who likes to portray himself as an arch cutter, disclosed last week that "the department did not offer any more than the 9.5 per cent cut announced on December 6."

"We did not do the 15 and 20 per cent options because Mr Heseltine said there would be a continuing review of functions," the official added.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, the Chancellor, seems to have acted in a similar spirit of independence.

In a "background briefing" released by the Board of Customs and Excise at the request of The Times, the total saving of 4.2 per cent in the department for which he is responsible (Treasury, Customs, Revenue and National Savings) would seem to be all that there is going to be because "there is no specific target for further savings, but ministers will continue to look for ways to reduce the administrative burden by eliminating work."

Those discoveries emerged as part of an inquiry designed to be the first test of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's open government policy. A test case of policy certain conditions are needed.

First, the material sought should not be something the KGB has been after for several months. Secondly, it should be common to all departments so that an index of relative openness can be compiled.



Mr Paul Channon: Off to a splendid start.

Thirdly, it should be a "major issue of parliamentary interest", where an announcement has already been made, to qualify under the terms of the Prime Minister's open government letter of June 20.

The Civil Service manpower exercise fitted the bill perfectly. All 22 departments listed in the December 6 announcement were asked formally, under the June 20 letter, to release their 10, 15 and 20 per cent options.

By noon yesterday 21 had replied—three agreeing to the request (Civil Service Department, Customs and the Stationery Office), two replying "not yet" (Education and Overseas Development), and 15 giving "flat no".

The Scottish Office compromised, disclosing round figures for the number of posts and the amount of money to be saved at each level, but refusing to give details.

The inquiry got off to a splendid start. Mr Paul Channon, Minister of State at the

Civil Service Department, who answers questions on open government in the Commons, released his ministry's documents without hesitation.

That generous act caused consternation in the rest of Whitehall.

The first line of defence was members of information divisions telephoning the Civil Service Department to see if Mr Channon had actually done what The Times was claiming he had.

The second, with two noble exceptions, was to dress up ways of saying "no". For consoling Whitehall secrecy here is a selection of negative replies and the reasons given for them:

"The options were purely hypothetical, the decision has been made, and that is the end of the matter."

"The Treasury declines to give reasons" (for saying "no").

"Our options are based on budgetary considerations and so they are ministerially confidential."

"Ministers do not feel it appropriate to disclose this information because the options are confidential and technical changes, some of which would need to be announced in Parliament."

"The staff side did not have the information. I could not give it to them, and I have refused to give it to them."

"The manpower exercise is a continuing one." Home Office: "After careful consideration the Home Office has decided that it is unable to let you have the information you have requested."

While the glowing exceptions of the Civil Service Department, Customs and the Stationery Office, Whitehall collectively has failed miserably the first test of the Prime Minister's open government policy. It is not clear whether the two routine internal affairs, what can it be expected to divulge?

National standards urged for public examinations

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

Any meaningful comparison of the results obtained by pupils in public examinations is impossible under the present system of grading according to Schools Council report published today.

The report recommends the development of a new system under which grades awarded in GCSE and CSE examinations would be based on a common set of nationally agreed criteria related to specific levels of attainment and mastery of skills.

The present norm-referenced system of grading, under which candidates are expected to achieve a particular grade year after year, does not relate directly to quality and invites grading standards to float, with change over time in the quality of the entry.

The report has been drawn up by the Schools Council Forum on Comparability, which was set up two years ago. It includes representatives of schools, universities, the Schools Council, the Department of Education and Science and the Schools Inspectorate.

Employers, parents and other users of examination results are confused by what public examinations meant and often attributed far too precise a degree of equivalence to examination results.

For example, when employers or universities required so many "O" or "A" level "passes" at particular grades in unspecified subjects, they were clearly assuming an equivalence in some sense, between different subjects at a given grade. Yet what precisely that equivalence was was far from clear.

Users tended to define equivalence of grade standards within a single subject in terms of mastery of skills and concepts. Thus, two candidates who had obtained the same grade in a given subject, regardless of board, mode or year, were expected to have attained the same mastery of that subject.

But even where two candidates had followed the same syllabus, had taken the same examination papers and had attained the same grade, they might have achieved quite different achievements by having answered completely different questions, or perhaps by having answered the same questions but having excelled in different areas.

The report calls for a reduction in the specialization of the diversity of syllabuses and examinations and the creation of nationally agreed grade definitions.

Standards in public examinations: a problem arises on the selection of candidates for a conference of the British Psychological Society held in London yesterday.

Mr Boyson 'pitifully ignorant'

By Our Education Correspondent

Mr Rhodes Boyson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Secretary of State for Education, showed a "pitiful ignorance" of universities when he suggested that the Government's new policy on overseas students need not lead to a fall in standards.

At a meeting of the University of Sheffield University, said in his address to the university's annual meeting yesterday.

In times of economic stress the universities must expect to bear their share of hardship, Professor Sims said. But seldom, if ever, had cuts of such magnitude been imposed; seldom had there been such a nearly defined higher education policy and never had such action been based on "so curious a hypothesis".

Sheffield University could lose up to 12 per cent of its income because of the Government's policy. It is to be continued for at least a further three years, and £500,000 for the development of an adult literacy and basic skills unit.

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, announced in the House of Commons yesterday.

WEST EUROPE

Nato offers to pull out 13,000 US troops to break Vienna deadlock

Vienna, Dec 17—Nato offered today to pull out 13,000 American troops from West Germany in exchange for the withdrawal from Eastern Europe of three Soviet Army divisions, totalling 30,000 men.

If accepted, the plan would represent the first agreed pull-back by East-West forces since the Second World War. It would be a major step towards a programme of reductions in manpower and arms sought by both sides in six years of difficult negotiations.

The initiative was described by Western diplomats as a "breakthrough attempt" to break the deadlock in force-reduction talks in Vienna and to get an interim agreement signed soon between Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

Nato officials hoped for a quick response, because the proposal resembles a withdrawal plan tabled by the seven nations of the Warsaw Pact 18 months ago.

The Nato offer was the key element in a "large and complicated" package of proposals passed to Warsaw Pact negotiators at an informal meeting here today.

The withdrawal of 30,000 Soviet troops from Eastern Europe would provide a symbolic start for a "thinning-out" process, the officials said. The Soviet Union has 31 divisions in East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The Nato package included proposals for a range of associated measures, such as advance warning of manoeuvres and troop movements and on-site inspections.

Communist diplomats said their first reaction was that the offer of an American pull-back of 13,000 men "was inadequate."

The Nato proposals replaced an original Western plan for a first-phase withdrawal of 63,000 Soviet and 29,000

American troops. Nato said the four-to-one advantage for the West was justified because Warsaw Pact manpower exceeded total Nato forces by about 150,000 men.

The Communist negotiators said they hoped the new plan would help to sidestep the dispute over the Warsaw Pact manpower figures that has stalled the Vienna talks for the past two years.

However, Nato officials said agreement on manpower figures was still essential, even for a limited pull-back of American and Soviet troops. Eventually, the two sides hope to agree on cuts which would reduce each alliance to total ground forces of 700,000 men.

Stanhope, Defence Correspondent, writes: Nato needs to improve its communications systems urgently, to compensate for its relative shortage of troops and equipment.

Nato officials said the key element in a "large and complicated" package of proposals passed to Warsaw Pact negotiators at an informal meeting here today.

The withdrawal of 30,000 Soviet troops from Eastern Europe would provide a symbolic start for a "thinning-out" process, the officials said. The Soviet Union has 31 divisions in East Germany, Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia.

The Nato package included proposals for a range of associated measures, such as advance warning of manoeuvres and troop movements and on-site inspections.

Communist diplomats said their first reaction was that the offer of an American pull-back of 13,000 men "was inadequate."

The Nato proposals replaced an original Western plan for a first-phase withdrawal of 63,000 Soviet and 29,000

Compromise formula ends Danish crisis

From Our Correspondent, Copenhagen, Dec 17

After a weekend of almost non-stop negotiations, Mr Anker Jørgensen, the Danish Prime Minister, won support for a revised version of his crucial economic austerity package and averted the fall of his government.

The latest Danish political crisis was brought about by the Government's insistence that controversial provisions for the introduction of a compulsory profit-sharing scheme for workers and a worker-controlled investment fund should be passed as part of the overall package.

The main elements in the package include stringent price and incomes controls, and increased corporation, wealth and property taxes. The economic democracy measures were the price the Trade Union Federation has exacted from the Government for support for its incomes policy.

Unable to gain support for the economic democracy measures in Parliament and thus facing certain defeat in the House, Mr Jørgensen yesterday performed a remarkable about-turn, dropping the measures and compensating the trade unions by watering down the current incomes freeze to allow for a 10 per cent wage ceiling.

Although the news of the compromise agreement has been met with stony silence by the unions, the general reaction in Denmark is one of relief that fresh elections have been averted.

The actual reply of the unions is not known as yet but relations between the unions and the ruling Social Democratic Party are likely to deteriorate.

Whether the revised Bill will succeed in curbing Denmark's economic malaise is open to question.

French vote delays law on abortion

Paris, Dec 17—The French Senate today rejected the law making abortion permanently legal in France, only a few days before the temporary law expires.

The Government immediately called for a joint meeting of senators and deputies to agree on a permanent law. The Senate's rejection will have no effect on the continuation of legal abortions in France because the National Assembly has the last word, observers here said. Last month the Assembly voted to keep the law passed for a five-year trial period. It was unlikely to go back on a decision of less than three weeks ago and even less expected to be passed by the end of the week.

The Bill failed in the Senate when the Socialists, who wanted a more liberal law and abortions paid for by the social security system, voted against it. The present law allows abortions for women in a distressed condition before the tenth week of pregnancy.

Agence France-Press.

Fireworks injure Italian customs men

Foggia, Dec 17—Two Italian customs officers each had a leg amputated today after a haul of Christmas fireworks, seized in this Italian town, exploded as they tried to defuse them, police said.

The fireworks, about 5,000 rockets and squibs confiscated over the past few days from illegal retailers in Foggia, apparently went off as the customs men were dumping them into a river outside the town. Two other officers were also injured by the blast.

Test ban talks adjourn

Geneva, Dec 17—The United States, Russia and Britain have concluded their eighth session of negotiations on a test ban here on banning underground nuclear tests, and adjourned until next February.

Research carried out in Denmark by Professor Knud Knudsen, an American sociologist, and others, suggests that pornography plays an important role for the sexually lonely or deprived. The researchers say it is difficult to point to any damage caused by pornography.

For most others it would seem to be a bore. Experiments on people's reactions to pornography carried out by Professor Knudsen in Copenhagen in 1970, revealed that two-thirds of those subjected to a one-hour dose of hardcore pornography experienced little thrill and much boredom.

All available figures show a sharp decrease in most sexual offences in Denmark, including abuse of children, since the freeing of pornography.

Due to more relaxed attitudes, however, sexual offences, such as attempted rape and exhibitionism, are probably no longer reported to the police.

The law still forbids sales to people under 16 and strictly controls the display of pornographic material. There are about 60 cinemas licensed to show pornographic films in Copenhagen and 90 pornography shops or kiosks which are licensed.

Since 1972 all live shows have been forbidden in Denmark and a law prohibiting the sale of pornography involving children under 16 is to be presented to Parliament within the next few weeks.

What is the effect of pornography on the young?

Why should a quiet, proper, introspective, Lutheran country like Denmark become

King's confusing role Spain's contradictory foreign policy

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Dec 17

When King Juan Carlos of Spain and Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, flew off in opposite directions last week, leaving the country constitutionally without heads of state for 24 hours, the situation was symbolic of post-Franco Spain's foreign policy: jet-paced, not highly coordinated and with two main protagonists in addition to the Foreign Minister.

This frequently leads to confusion. The King's last visit to North Africa.

Last summer Señor Suárez visited Algeria and held talks with representatives of the Polisario (Saharan Liberation Front) about Moroccan efforts to annex the former Spanish colony of the Sahara.

That initiative was buried by subsequent efforts by Señor Marcelino Oreja, the Foreign Minister, to restore cozy relations with King Hassan of Morocco.

That King Juan Carlos is also an important figure in Spanish foreign policy is undeniable. His trips abroad have generally enhanced the prestige of post-Franco Spain and have generally raised eyebrows in some circles.

That surprise was justified, as it developed, by plain talk from Señor Suárez and Señor Oreja to Mr Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, during his visit to Madrid last month. They made it absolutely clear that Spain considers itself a part of the Western world and would resist Soviet interference in Spanish decisions.

Even "official" Spanish foreign policy, as represented by the activities of the Foreign Ministry, is sometimes confusing, perhaps because it tries to be all things to all men. Spain's presence, even as an observer, at the last non-aligned nations conference in Havana caused raised eyebrows in some circles.

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In brief

Concorde breaks 3-hour barrier

A British Airways Concorde flew from New York to London on Sunday in 2 hours 39 minutes 36 seconds.

The average speed for the 3,516-mile flight was 1,172 mph. The previous record was 3 hours 6 minutes.

Fell for train murder

Paul Carberry, aged 17, of Mount Street, Glasgow, was convicted yesterday at Chester Crown Court of murdering Mr John Murray, aged 21, on a train carrying Scottish football supporters to Wembley in May. He was ordered to be detained during her Majesty's pleasure.

£8,000 Tube raid

Five armed robbers escaped with £8,000 after a hold-up at the ticket office at Stockwell Underground station, south London, yesterday.

Artist dies

Sheila Fell, RA, who was described by L. S. Lowry as Britain's leading landscape artist, has died after a fall at her London home. She was 48.

Men's jobs 'determine life expectancy of their wives'

By David Nicholson-Lord

Men determine their wives' life expectancy by "transmitting" to them the risks and stresses of their jobs, it was suggested at a conference of the British Psychological Society in London yesterday.

Mr Ben Fletcher, a senior lecturer at Hatfield Polytechnic, said an analysis of statistics on deaths showed a strong link between a husband's occupation and his wife's life expectancy. The explanation appeared to be the wife's involvement in the psychological climate created by her partner's job.

The findings were based on analysis of more than a million deaths during the years 1959-63 and 1970-72 as part of a Medical Research Council project on stress at work. That produced "standardized mortality ratios" for different groups of workers for different ages, age-adjusted death rates set against an average of 100, in which high figures indicate a low life expectancy.

The study showed an unexpectedly strong link between the death rates of men and married women, much higher than that

between men and single women in the same occupation.

The figures for steel erectors and their wives, for example, were 164 and 159 respectively. Other ratios included: teachers, 57 (56 for wives); accountants, 58 (59); lawyers, 53 (58); Armed Forces, 147 (150); Hackers and labourers, 273 (341).

Mr Fletcher said that factors such as social class, the bereavement effect after the death of one partner, and the transfer of physical pollutants like industrial dust from husband to wife, did not adequately explain the link. Occupations in the same social class, for example, showed large variations in mortality ratios.

The conference was also told of an experiment by graduate students in the running of a shared house. Points were earned by doing household chores and spent on leisure, such as going out for a meal, with each member having to earn more than he spent each week. The result, according to Dr John Macdonald, of Trinity College, Dublin, was a clean and happy household.

'No Oxbridge bias' claim by Civil Service denied

By Our Education Correspondent

The selection of Civil Service administrators is unfairly biased towards Oxbridge candidates, according to a study of candidates' scores in Civil Service tests carried out by a former statistician in the Civil Service Department.

The study, by Mr Robert Mays, now a research fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford, was presented at a conference of the British Psychological Society held in London yesterday.

It contradicts the findings of the commission on the selection procedure for the recruitment of administrators, set up by the Civil Service Commission, whose report was published last week. The committee said that it was entirely confident of the commission's commitment to fair competition and selection by merit.

The reason why there appeared to be a bias in favour of Oxbridge graduates was because a higher proportion of Oxbridge graduates had first-class degrees, and a higher proportion applied to become administrators.

Mr Mays based his report on an analysis of data on 600 candidates in the 1975 competition for the recruitment of administrators, including written test marks and exercise ratings, subjective assessments of behaviour, and the final grade assigned to each candidate by

the Civil Service Selection Board and the Final Selection Board.

He claimed yesterday that the committee set up by the commission to carry out an analysis appropriate to the question of bias.

Mr Mays found that candidates from Oxbridge and private schools and men, were given higher Civil Service Selection Board total marks on written tests than their individual scores and ratings seemed to justify. He found even stronger "unsupported bias" in favour of Oxbridge graduates in subjective assessments of behaviour.

"These subjective judgments cannot be viewed as valid measures of the candidates; indeed they may tell us more about the assessors than about the assessed."

"Among candidates of the same ability as measured by every test, exercise and subjective assessment of personality and intellect, those from Oxbridge have a better chance of selection in the final judgment," Mr Mays says.

The size of the Oxbridge bias could be quantified, if decisions were to be based only on written tests and ratings made during selection, then in 1975 about 49 per cent of successful graduate entrants would have had an Oxbridge background. In fact, of those offered appointments, 68 per cent had attended Oxford or Cambridge universities.

Camel fall case adjourned

Dorothy Tutin, the actress, will not know until next year whether she is entitled to compensation for the broken back she suffered in a fall from a camel during a charity event three years ago.

The High Court hearing in which Miss Tutin, aged 49, is seeking damages from the camel owners, Mary Chipfield Promotions Ltd, over an accident

at the International Show Jumping Championships at Olympia in December 1976, was adjourned yesterday until February 11.

An expert on camels is to be called to give evidence on behalf of Mary Chipfield Promotions, who deny liability. February 11 is the earliest date on which Mr Justice Canley can resume the hearing.

OVERSEAS

Seychelles tense as bishops are denied access to detainees

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, Dec 17

The Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops in the Seychelles have issued a joint pastoral letter expressing concern about the situation in the islands where over 80 people were recently arrested and detained after President Albert René announced the discovery of a plan to overthrow his government with the assistance of mercenaries.

A curfew is still in force and security remains tight. Heavily armed Tanzanian troops, who have been in the islands since the 1977 coup which brought President René to power, man roadblocks and patrol the main island, Mahé.

The Soviet guided missile cruiser Marshal Voroshilov left Victoria, the Seychelles capital, a few days ago after being anchored off the port for two weeks.

Travellers arriving from the islands say the situation there remains tense. The Seychelles Club, a prominent institution in the centre of Victoria, was closed at the weekend when members were told the government had taken it over for use as a youth centre.

Business is depressed and although hotels are fully booked with tourists for the Christmas season there are fears that the tourist industry, mainstay of the Seychelles economy, will suffer in the New Year.

The Anglican Bishop, the Right Rev. French Chang-Ham, and the Roman Catholic Bishop, Mr. Felix Paul, took the exception of issuing a joint pastoral letter saying they have been unable to discover how many people have been detained and that they have been denied access to the prison.

They express concern for the families of those detained and ask that they be brought to court if there are charges against them, otherwise they should be freed.

"We ask that justice be done," they state, adding: "We wish to make it clear that we do not approve of violence and that we do not approve of a plot to kill anyone. But we cannot approve of injustice or a situation which is contrary to human rights."

The letter is published in the Roman Catholic newspaper, *L'Echo des îles*. It fills the back page of the latest issue.

It was learned today that the names of 87 people detained had been smuggled out of the main prison in Mahé and that the list had already been supplied to Amnesty International in London. Amnesty is understood to be approaching the Seychelles Government for information on the situation.

The list includes Mr. Chanyer Cherty, a former Seychelles Finance Minister; Mr. Gilbert Horau, the Chief Immigration Officer; and Mr. Bernard Verlaque, editor of the independent newspaper *Weekend Life*. All are Seychellois except for a French subject, Mr. Jacques Chevalereau, who was an adviser to the Seychelles police.

One man who was detained, Mr. Albert Bedier, has been released and is now in London. He said he was given no reason for his arrest and detention for three weeks, and was never interrogated about the alleged coup plot.

It added that only about 15 or 20 of the detainees had been interrogated, mainly in efforts to find those responsible for a number of anonymous leaflets attacking the René Government which have been widely distributed.

Diplomatic sources report that France has ordered the recall of its six technical assistance personnel working in the Seychelles and has also asked the Seychelles Government to release Mr. Chevalereau, who was recently named by President René as the leader of the plot to overthrow his Government.



Point taken: Herr Brandt (right) and Mr. Heath answering questions on the world aid report.

Trade levy idea to aid Third World

By Roger Berthoud

International taxation on trade in minerals from the seabed and armaments is the most striking proposal produced by the Brandt Commission for reducing world inequalities and boosting aid to developing countries.

The conclusions of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues, as it is formally called, were outlined yesterday in London by its chairman, Herr Willy Brandt, the former West German Chancellor.

The 18 Commission members, most of whom were present included two former Prime Ministers (Mr. Heath and Sweden's Mr. Olof Palme), Mrs. Katharine Graham, pub-

lisher of the Washington Post, and senior politicians and economists from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Herr Brandt said too few of the world's richer countries had lived up to their promise to give 0.7 per cent of their national product as development assistance. That should be achieved by 1985 and 1 per cent by the end of the century. More countries should join in, on a sliding scale related to national income.

New methods were needed to increase funds. A modest levy on international trade, seabed minerals and armaments—objectively the most wasteful of all forms of spending—might provide such additional revenue.

The Commission's ideas will be set out in detail in its report, to be presented in February to Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General. Mr. Heath, who played a substantial part in its drafting, said the Commission's ideas will be set out in detail in its report, to be presented in February to Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General.

General, will then elaborate on the report in LONDON.

In his summary yesterday, Herr Brandt said the present system of financing development had failed to meet urgent needs. Many countries needed broader loans, for programmes as well as projects, then the World Bank could provide and many East European countries remained outside its structure.

The Commission proposed, therefore, a new universal development institution, with broader participation—a world development fund.

Faced with the impending world economic crisis, the Commission would be putting forward a four-part package of measures to benefit industrialized countries, energy producers, middle-income countries, and truly poor nations.

The elements would be: a big transfer of funds to the Third World; a new agreement on the security and conservation of energy supplies; an efficient world food programme; and a start on key reforms,

including the monetary system and means of financing development.

Both Herr Brandt and Mr. Heath were convinced that the economic development of the Third World would be of great benefit to the industrialized countries, despite the immediate problems of increasing such Third World imports as textiles.

To generate the political will for a global economic bargain, the Commission urged the convening of a new kind of summit conference, involving a limited number of national leaders from the world's main regions.

Herr Brandt suggested that the head of government of a neutral country might help with the soundings for such a meeting, after consultation with Dr. Waldheim.

North and South, Herr Brandt and his colleagues reiterated, had a far greater mutual interest than they commonly recognized in achieving economic revival together.

East block accused of failing to aid refugees

From Peter Hainhurst
Tokyo, Dec 17

The contradiction between the feuding Communist armies of Indo-China has uprooted almost one million refugees in South-East Asia, but the Soviet Union and other communist nations have done little or nothing to alleviate the suffering. Mr. Paul Harding, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said today.

Suggesting that the Western allies and Japan have been forced to underwrite the heavy costs of the Indo-China refugee crisis, Mr. Harding said journalists in Tokyo today.

"When we look towards assistance for refugees in South-East Asia, then the United States is the number one donor and the number two donor this year is Japan."

"Japan has promised to pay 50 per cent of the entire programme at South-East Asia."

Mr. Harding added that the UNHCR estimates that the eastern block pay their share of the United Nations budget but only contribute a small amount to the UNHCR. The bulk of our funds come from voluntary contributions and donor countries. It is very seldom that we receive a small contribution from the socialist block. They are not yet in the list of donor countries, if I may say so," he said.

Mr. Harding said he feared that the "hardcore" funds are being rapidly depleted by the growing number of refugees in the world and that the UNHCR budget will have to be quadrupled next year.

"A few months ago we estimated that \$100m (about \$46m) would cover our budget this year but we now realize we will have to spend \$350m this year and another \$400m next year to cover the deficit," he said.

In contrast, only 2,500 refugees from Vietnam escaped to East Asia in October, and November. At present as many as 25,000 Vietnamese refugees are being moved out of camps in South-East Asia every month.

"Arrivals have gone down and departures have gone up. If that situation continues then the problem will be under control in a year or two. You just have to look at the statistics. I estimate the refugee problem will be solved by 1985," he said.

Outlining some of the UNHCR's major problems, Mr. Harding said some 200,000 refugees, who crossed into Bangladesh in recent years, are being resettled in their former villages in Burma.

The refugees in South-East Asia have received a lot of publicity, but the problem

extends to the parts of the world where millions of people have been displaced in Ethiopia, the Sudan and Somalia. We have 500,000 refugees in the vicinity of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, Mozambique, Zambia and Botswana. There are similar problems in Latin America," he said.

Painting a less gloomy picture for the future of the refugees, Mr. Harding said that a great number of displaced persons had declined recently while more people are now being resettled abroad.

He went on to reveal that nearly one million refugees from Indo-China are still waiting in camps in Thailand, Malaysia and other South-East Asian nations.

"I can make no forecasts for the future," he said. "I can only state the current situation. As far as the Vietnamese refugees are concerned, a great number of them people, tens of thousands per month, continued to arrive in the last half of August."

"We do not know how many did not survive their journey. But what we do know is the fact that the number is decreasing very clearly and rapidly."

As many as 60,000 people were arriving in the month of August, the early part of the year. At the same time an average of 9,000 refugees were being moved out of camps and resettled in other countries.

Oxfam said that it was satisfied with the distribution of its aid supplies in Kampuchea and was under no political pressure from the Vietnam-backed Government in Phnom Penh.

Geoffrey Beasley, the Oxfam chief representative in Singapore, was commenting on a statement by the International Committee of the Red Cross that it might reconsider its role in the relief effort because of a lack of its food aid was being distributed in Kampuchea. Apparently 25,000 tons of food was still stored in warehouses at Kampong Som, the only deep-water port in Kampuchea.

BACK TO KAMPUCHEA: Tens of thousands of Kampucheans, given the choice of moving to a Thai refugee camp or moving back into Kampuchea, have chosen to return to their country.

They have re-erected their bamboo huts in their forest just across a dried up stream bed from the Thai border. But the two countries, but refugees officials at the vast refugee camp at Khao I Dang, eight miles inside Thailand, fear that the Vietnamese-led forces launched a "vicious" propaganda offensive in north-western Kampuchea, where, would be a stampede of panic-stricken people back across the frontier.

Begin coalition forced to amend abortion law

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Dec 17

A controversial amendment to the Israeli abortion laws was pushed through the Knesset today by 58 votes to 53.

The amendment was forced on Mr. Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, by a handful of ultra-orthodox deputies. They threatened to withdraw their support unless the coalition ended the right of Israeli women to secure legal abortions for social reasons.

A month ago the coalition came close to collapse when it failed to secure the first reading of the Bill after a tied vote of 54 to 54. As a result, Mr. Begin took a political gamble and made the issue a vote of confidence in his Government.

As the packed public galleries of the Knesset indicated, today's debate was far beyond the significance of a single vote on the single topic of abortion. For many people the real issue was the increasingly pervasive influence on Israeli society of the religious minority.

Reform of the abortion laws was one of 36 religiously-motivated demands made by the Agudat Israel party when it agreed to back the coalition for the 1977 election. It has already secured a few per-

mitting religious women to avoid national service and now plans to press hard for legislation which will make it much more difficult for doctors to carry out post-mortem examinations.

The growing political influence of orthodox politicians, many of them rabbis, is causing resentment. This afternoon at the Knesset demonstrators chanted the slogan "down with Khomeinism" at orthodox Jews arriving to attend the debate in their long black coats and black hats.

After the result was announced, Mrs. Shulamit Aloni, a deputy representing the civil rights movement, told reporters: "This vote has shown that our nation is now run by the ultra-orthodox who are anti-zionists. That is the real shame. They laid down the law and Begin's coalition has obeyed their command."

The women who will be affected by the change in the law will mostly be from the lower income groups. An indication of the public mood on opinion poll published this morning. Of those questioned 70 per cent came out against the amendment compared with only 20 per cent in favour.

Border tensions take Pakistan envoy to Kabul

From Our Correspondent
Islamabad, Dec 17

The Foreign Ministers of Pakistan and Afghanistan are to meet in Kabul this weekend, apparently to try to reduce tension and pave the way for a possible meeting between President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan and President Hafizullah Amin of Afghanistan.

The Pakistan Foreign Office announced here today that Mr. Asghar Shahi, foreign affairs adviser to the Pakistan leader, would visit Kabul on an invitation from Mr. Shah Wali, Afghan Foreign Minister. It gave no purpose for the visit.

The Soviet-supported regime in Kabul accuses Pakistan of arming and training guerrillas for mountain warfare in Afghanistan. Pakistan has denied the allegation and asserted that the Kabul regime has pushed into Pakistan those 400,000 refugees so far who severely strained the country's economy, already precarious.

Pakistan has also been blaming Afghanistan for bombing, shelling and massing troops near the Pakistan border.

Lesotho Premier hints at first election since 1970

From Ray Kennedy
Johannesburg, Dec 17

Chief Leabua Jonathan, Prime Minister of Lesotho, has hinted that he is willing to call a general election for the first time since 1970.

He gave no indication as to when the election would be held, but said he was confident that his Basotho National Party would win because the women of Lesotho would vote for him.

Chief Jonathan was addressing a women's rally in Maseru, the capital, when he dropped his election hint.

"The talk of an election came as Chief Jonathan's para-military Police Mobile Unit is engaged in bitter fighting with rebels of the Basotho Congress Party (BCP), directed by the exiled party leader, Mr. Ntsu Mokhehle."

Lesotho was granted independence in 1966. The first election in 1970 was won by the BCP. Chief Jonathan declared the result invalid after alleging intimidation of voters.

Mr. Mokhehle was detained for several months before being freed and going into exile. He lives now in Zambia and Botswana.

Since 1970 there have been frequent clashes between the BCP and Chief Jonathan's forces. The most serious were in 1970 when five police stations were attacked during an attempted coup by the BCP. In the latest clashes on Lesotho's northern border with the Orange Free State at least 20 people have been killed. According to the South African Government, more than 500 refugees, mainly old people, women and children, have fled across the Caledon river into the Orange Free State, where they are being sheltered in a temporary camp at a town named Bethlehem.

South Africa has called on the United Nations to give aid to the refugees, but if its economic development of the Third World would be of great benefit to the industrialized countries, despite the immediate problems of increasing such Third World imports as textiles.

To generate the political will for a global economic bargain, the Commission urged the convening of a new kind of summit conference, involving a limited number of national leaders from the world's main regions.

Herr Brandt suggested that the head of government of a neutral country might help with the soundings for such a meeting, after consultation with Dr. Waldheim.

North and South, Herr Brandt and his colleagues reiterated, had a far greater mutual interest than they commonly recognized in achieving economic revival together.

No decision yet on future of 5,000 prisoners

From Richard Wigg
A South Indian Village, Dec 18

A Harijan (formerly Untouchable) woman comes out of her hut. She has overheard her husband talking to a man who is believed to have been either a member of the Amik secret police or criminal element in his Army. Mr. Steven Arko, the Justice Minister, said he was not in a position to say whether the prisoners were housed in appalling conditions at Ludhiana prison outside Kampala.

At any rate, this is the message from a weekend spent canvassing in this Karas village, where Mr. A. had stayed earlier this year. It is a pretty but very poor village, but half a dozen families being landless labourers or smallholders. Only a quarter of the agricultural land is irrigated, but mercifully, the rain god was kind this monsoon, as the villagers put it.

But the Harijan women were keeping their eyes open. "We criticize the politicians and then we go meekly and vote for them. We only talk but we don't tell them what we think," the village needs, one of them said. "We know we'll be forgotten on the election night, when the politicians will be in Bangalore and there'll be drink and prostitutes, too."

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Villagers disillusioned by MPs' changing allegiance see politics as dirty business

India's rural vote stays uncertain

From Richard Wigg
A South Indian Village, Dec 18

A Harijan (formerly Untouchable) woman comes out of her hut. She has overheard her husband talking to a man who is believed to have been either a member of the Amik secret police or criminal element in his Army. Mr. Steven Arko, the Justice Minister, said he was not in a position to say whether the prisoners were housed in appalling conditions at Ludhiana prison outside Kampala.

At any rate, this is the message from a weekend spent canvassing in this Karas village, where Mr. A. had stayed earlier this year. It is a pretty but very poor village, but half a dozen families being landless labourers or smallholders. Only a quarter of the agricultural land is irrigated, but mercifully, the rain god was kind this monsoon, as the villagers put it.

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So the chairman of the Panchayat (the equivalent of the parish council) and the village's leading farmer is busy organizing the 45 per cent vote he says he expects for Mrs. Gandhi.

Aged only 30, he has one personal advantage. As Mrs. Gandhi was down last year, I remembered that she still supported her unwaveringly. He thinks that her younger son, Sanjay, "belongs only in jail".

Our aster: "But why should we punish the mother for her son?"

He believes that Mrs. Gandhi alone can deliver what she promises in the elections. "Her policies were good for country people in the past, we feared the change. Now we see the present Prime Minister, though he proclaimed to be a villager too, could not deliver anything."

But there is something far stronger going for Mrs. Gandhi in the village. "I calculate only three or four of the Harijan families will not vote for Mrs. Gandhi," the chairman told me.

Landless farm labourers, all Harijans, I showed gave the reason. "Most of us go and ask the chairmen's family before we vote. They tell us to vote for Mrs. Gandhi."

All those who vote at the chairman's advice know they will get work for the months when their own food stocks are exhausted.

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Mrs Gandhi's son faces metal sale charges

Delhi, Dec 17—Sanjay Gandhi, son of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the former Indian Prime Minister, was accused today of the illegal sale of iron and steel acquired for use in his failed Maruti car manufacturing project. The case was registered today by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Gandhi who is campaigning in northern Uttar Pradesh state for next month's general election is alleged to have illegally sold part of 6,066 tons of iron and steel which have been for use in the plant between 1971 and 1975.

He already faces at least 20 cases before the courts, most of them arising from alleged mismanagement of the 21-month emergency rule.

Cattle grazing threatens survival of rare wombat

From Our Correspondent
Melbourne, Dec 17

The Queensland hairy-nosed wombat is facing extinction because of cattle grazing. There are fewer than 40 of the creatures left in Queensland's Epping Forest National Park, according to Mr. M. Gaughwin, an Adelaide research worker.

Mr. Gaughwin says that the wombat needs abundant food and a large area of land for ovulation and lactation. Because of cattle grazing the food source was threatened.

Mr. Gaughwin, who was asked by the Queensland Government to supply information about his work on another member of the species near Adelaide, said research was needed on the hairy-nosed wombat.

A spokesman for the National Parks and Wildlife Department, said the survival of the wombats was being threatened as a matter of urgency. A wildlife officer had been in the park to advise the landholders to have the wombat area fenced off.

Tony Samstag writes: The word wombat, which is derived from one of the Aboriginal languages, describes a burrowing, herbivorous marsupial, about three feet long, that is probably related to the koala. It has a long, thick tail, is arboreal whereas the wombat has adapted to its different way of life by losing its tail, developing a large leathery muzzle and great strength in its legs and feet.

Official policy is still to encourage Jews to settle there, however, and the Government was obviously pleased with a proposal that would prove Jewish culture was alive in the region.

Mr. Shering toured the country for seven months interviewing prospective actors and has now assembled 25. He invited old Jewish people who still knew Yiddish to teach his troupe the language, and started writing an opera, and to incorporate Jewish songs and dances of the turn of the century.

Surprisingly, he invited Mr. Ilia Glazunov, a controversial and disreputable artist, who has been known to voice strongly anti-Semitic sentiments, to design the decor and sets. Mr. Glazunov, who is also interested in the Russia of that period, accepted. His designs have been praised by the critics.

Mr. Shering wanted to take the theatre on tour after the opening in Birobidjan, but he was forbidden to play in the centres of Moscow, Leningrad and Kiev. In April, however, he arranged a performance, which

was given wide unofficial publicity, in a place of culture in a Moscow suburb.

Both he and the authorities took a gamble. There were no embarrassing displays of Jewish nationalism, and the way was open for authorized performances in the city centre.

The Jewish Musical Theatre has been given government money to develop. Mr. Shering is planning to get a prominent American-Jewish writer to co-operate in writing a new opera he wants to stage next year on the Jewish hero of Maccabees in ancient Israel.

Some Jews have accused the theatre of becoming a government propaganda showpiece. Mr. Shering, a dynamic and multi-talented man of 33 who lives in Moscow, rejects the charge.

He admits that he encountered "difficulties" at first. But it is clear that it was only after he had personally overcome the bureaucratic obstacles that the Soviet authorities realized the theatre could reflect well on official cultural policies, especially when Soviet policies towards Jews are being attacked abroad.

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THE ARTS

Bitter coherence

LSO/Colin Davis
Festival Hall

William Mann

Shostakovich's fifth symphony is as good an advertisement as could be wished for the truthfulness of those recently published, much-discussed memoirs. The intensely lonely opening of the first movement, with its scrupulously unpredictable melodic steps, like a soldier picking a gingerly way across a minefield, and the poignant, highly poetic Largo, always seemed to belong to a different work from the banal ending of the finale, the brass chant in the scherzo, and the climax of the first development which sounds like a parody of a family morning in Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*.

LPO/Solti

Albert Hall

Paul Griffiths

Artists who give their services free for charitable causes deserve better than to be sniped at in their morning paper. However, it is impossible to ignore an occasion like Sunday's performance of Verdi's *Requiem*, given in the presence of the Prince of Wales, in aid of the London Philharmonic Orchestra's National Appeal Fund and sponsored by Imperial Tobacco. It also helps that I can report that the evening was thrilling enough to dispose of a critic's moral scruples.

The cynic might argue that the work has success built into it, that Verdi was too practical a composer to let his feelings out the door, that the way of composing a concert drama which no fault in performance could seriously weaken. There is much truth in that, but on the other hand the *Requiem* by no means always gains the flaming frenzy that leads this time across the whole expanse of the Albert Hall. Sir Georg Solti was to a large degree responsible for

Amadeus/Curzon

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Noel Goodwin

Sir Clifford Curzon is a pianist who can take a composer's instruction "con molto sentimento" at its face value, or rather, its musical value, and persuade his listeners that it was meant for the benefit of the work and not the performance. This helped to distinguish his performance on Sunday of the Amadeus Quartet by Franz, one of an occasional series of programmes which the Amadeus players are sharing with different pianists of distinction. It was a performance that clearly pointed the crucial difference between sentiment and sentimentality within a work that often seems in danger of mixing them.

Martin Best

Wigmore Hall

Frank Dobbins

Troubadour poetry survives in considerable quantity. While most of it was undoubtedly sung, only a small proportion (about a tenth) was noted down and then in a sketchy manner indicating only relative pitch. The determination of the melodies' rhythm remains conjectural—some modern interpreters preferring a free declamatory style to plain-song, others more dance-like patterns based on the imagined meter of the verse. The only manuscripts also lack any accompaniment, but it is generally assumed that this might have been improvised by minstrels or jugglers on the instruments depicted in the Middle Ages.

Martin Best and his group respond vividly to the challenge of presenting the troubadour repertoire in an inventive manner which provides good musical entertainment for the modern concert audience. His solution to the problem is based on the idea of duplicating the vocal melody on one or more instruments with other instruments providing rudimentary drones or adding an occasional flourish of melismatic coda in the manner of some non-Western folk music. But lively strumming on the lute (or oud) allied to the rest and vigorous support of the makers and tabors of David Corkhill brings a percussive vigour more characteristic of the pop group.

I do not know whether Davis has read those memoirs and believes in their authenticity; his interpretation suggested it most powerfully. He may have elaborated another explanation of the work's coherence; the enemy does not have to be identified, might be altogether non-political, even something as abstract as the weather. In any case, Shostakovich's fifth symphony for once hung together for me, and left a more bitter aftertaste than ever; and a regret that they didn't play the sixth symphony as an encore.

The entry of the piano in the first movement made a quite surprising effect, like a dissenter yet authoritative new voice in an argument. The subsequent development, more German than Russian in symphonic manner, was extremely taut in its unfolding. The scherzo, much indebted to Mahler, was delivered with grimly sarcastic relish, so that the elegiac classical eloquence of the slow movement followed with enhanced impressiveness.

Before the interval Claudio Arrau was the soloist in Liszt's Major piano concerto. It has always seemed one of his most sustained poetic structures. Arrau, perhaps as a result of recent forays into Liszt as heir of the Viennese classical tradition, something much deeper than a keyboard prestidigitator, heightened the poetry of the concerto, and intensified its musical logic, to an unusual degree, without sacrificing any of the drama or physical exuberance.

Of the solo quartet, Yvonne Minton was most successful in showing how the merest murmur, if properly projected, can carry as much weight in this auditorium as any full-throated shout of passion. She poured between the extremes to great effect in her "Liber scriptus", the most intelligently sung aria in this performance. Strangely enough she had more trouble in the several duets which Verdi, remembering Aida and Amneris, writes for soprano and mezzo. Perhaps this resulted from a mismatching with Leontyne Price, who generally preferred a strikingly pure tone cutting it from within which her throat Miss Minton's was more human, possessed sound.

When Miss Price was alone, and especially in the final "Liber me", she coupled her high angelic singing with conventionally Verdian speech-song in the lower register, always moving comfortably from one to the other. The lesser opportunities afforded the male soloists were well taken.

that links its three movements is also at times only a hair's breadth away from the most catchpenny Museum of Music. Sir Clifford's playing helped to keep the performance from extravagance in either direction by the freedom of his phrasing within the character of the string playing, and by his subtle use of the pedal to assist in giving the music full dignity. At the same time, the ensemble as a whole ensured that it never lacked character, especially in the episodes which relieve the often monotonous progress of the finale.

It was another finale in which the Amadeus players alone excelled. That of Haydn's F major Quartet, the second of his op 77 pair, which they played in succession as the first part of the concert. Not having heard Norbert Brainin and his colleagues in person for some time, I found myself admiring all over again not only their obvious virtuosity of responsive ensemble and vivacity of spirit, but also their evident pleasure in qualities of line and balance as these merged. If in places they missed the music's advantage, pushing forward their way through the Andante of the F major Quartet, for instance, they never sought to violate the serene grace of Haydn's awareness of Beethoven in these last quartets of the older composer.

More delicate, impressionistic hues are occasionally introduced by the imaginative use of pizzicato, dulcimer and bells and, while Mr Best clearly dominates the group with his committed singing and playing, in turn spirited and sensitive, the expert piping of Jeremy Barlow's recorders and regal and the skilful bowing and plucking of Alistair McLachlan's fiddles provide discreet but noticeable support.

Diaghilev illustrated in a British context

The Diaghilev Ballet in England/Ethelbert White, 1891-1972
Fine Art Society

George Bissill, 1896-1973
Belgrave Gallery, at Blond Fine Art

Sue et Mare
Foulk Lewis Collection

Sèvres
The Queen's Gallery

The Shoe Show
ICA

Not another Diaghilev exhibition? Ah, but this is a really interesting and distinctive one. It presents Diaghilev in a somewhat unfamiliar context by isolating the British visits of his company, and considering them in relation to the British theatre of the time, the effect they had on British artists and dancers, the recruitment of new British talent which took place because of them, and the legacy of Diaghilev in British ballet after his death.

It makes an interesting story, admirably documented in an informative catalogue and vividly illustrated by costume and set designs, production photographs, clippings and other memorabilia. We can wonder again at the prodigious invention of Bakst in costume design, and the beauty of his swirling drawings. We can see original set designs by a host of famous and less famous names—Roerich, Goncharov, Polunin—and even more intriguingly, by some rather unlikely-seeming British artists who had brushes with the ballet directly or indirectly through Diaghilev. Here, for instance, are Christopher Wood's set designs (created in the event for *Romeo and Juliet*; here is a design by Ben Nicholson for a drop curtain in Massine's ballet *Seventh Symphony*; here are Paul Nash's sets for *The Truth about the Russian Dancers* (very Aldwych-farical) and Vanessa Bell's delightful caricature-painting of Lopokova with J. M. Keynes peering at her from behind a curtain. For once, it is emphatically not the same old relics dragged out and dredged in the Mitozuko one more time.

The link between this show and the other at the Fine Art Society might seem to be tenuous. But Ethelbert White, for all his living in a caravan, gypsy-style, and his devotion to the English rustic scene, was a lover of the ballet and a frequent illustrator of it. His exhibition contains several of his gouaches on Diaghilev subjects, vivid in their tuppence-colours, as well as an impressive show of his sober, sometimes rather Camden Townish oils (he did exhibit on at least one occasion with Ginner). If anything, his watercolours are even better: in particular *The Quarry Men* and *The Railway Bridge* achieve within their relatively small compass a genuinely monumental quality.

George Bissill, even more improbably as someone who made his name mainly from painting miners, also had links with Diaghilev: there are two lively paintings in the Diaghilev show based on his experience of (or is it just photographs of?) Dolin in *Le Train Bleu*. But his real skills emerge in the show devoted entirely to his long-neglected work by the Belgrave Gallery. He had a meagre rise to fame in 1925 with his drawings of miners (after working for a while as a pavement artist outside Rush House), and continued in the public eye for about ten years. Then he dropped out completely, retired to the country and became, quite contentedly, a picture restorer who did an occasional landscape. What this show reveals, however, is a strongly distinctive painter with an almost sculptural sense of form (it is not for nothing that he later discovered a natural affinity with the woodcut). A few influences from Vorticism are visible here and there in his way of faceting his figures and defining them by areas of flat, contrasted colours, but finally he is just not like anyone else. The exhibition is a really exciting voyage of rediscovery.

Let us not get, yet again, into boring arguments about when, and how, craft passes over into art. When furniture and interior decoration attain the quality of *Sue et Mare*, alias the *Compagnie des Arts Français*, any such distinctions are almost irrelevant. The company was formed as a joint enterprise of an architect, Louis Sile, and a painter, André Mare, in 1919, and was dissolved in 1928. Its life-span, therefore, neatly straddles the Deco moment, past excellence, the Paris Exposition des Arts Décoratifs of 1925, and its products, especially the furniture, are perhaps the purest expressions of the Deco spirit proper.

Some of the shoes in *The Shoe Show* are pretty far divorced from life, too. But most of them seem down-to-earth and the show is otherwise just what you might expect from an improbable summer meeting between the Institute of Contemporary Arts and the Crafts Council. That is to say, it makes a lot of things which were in the back of your mind of primary importance in terms of their function, ones that sort of come from such basic practicalities, and leaves us to contemplate them as one (no puns, please) just looking at the objects. There are a few self-conscious pieces of modern fantasy; on the other hand (or foot), are sensible shoes of a beauty to take your breath away. Now that Allen Jones seems to have focused boots and shoes as a suitable subject for artistic treatment *The Shoe Show* seems likely to inspire many more to follow in his footsteps.

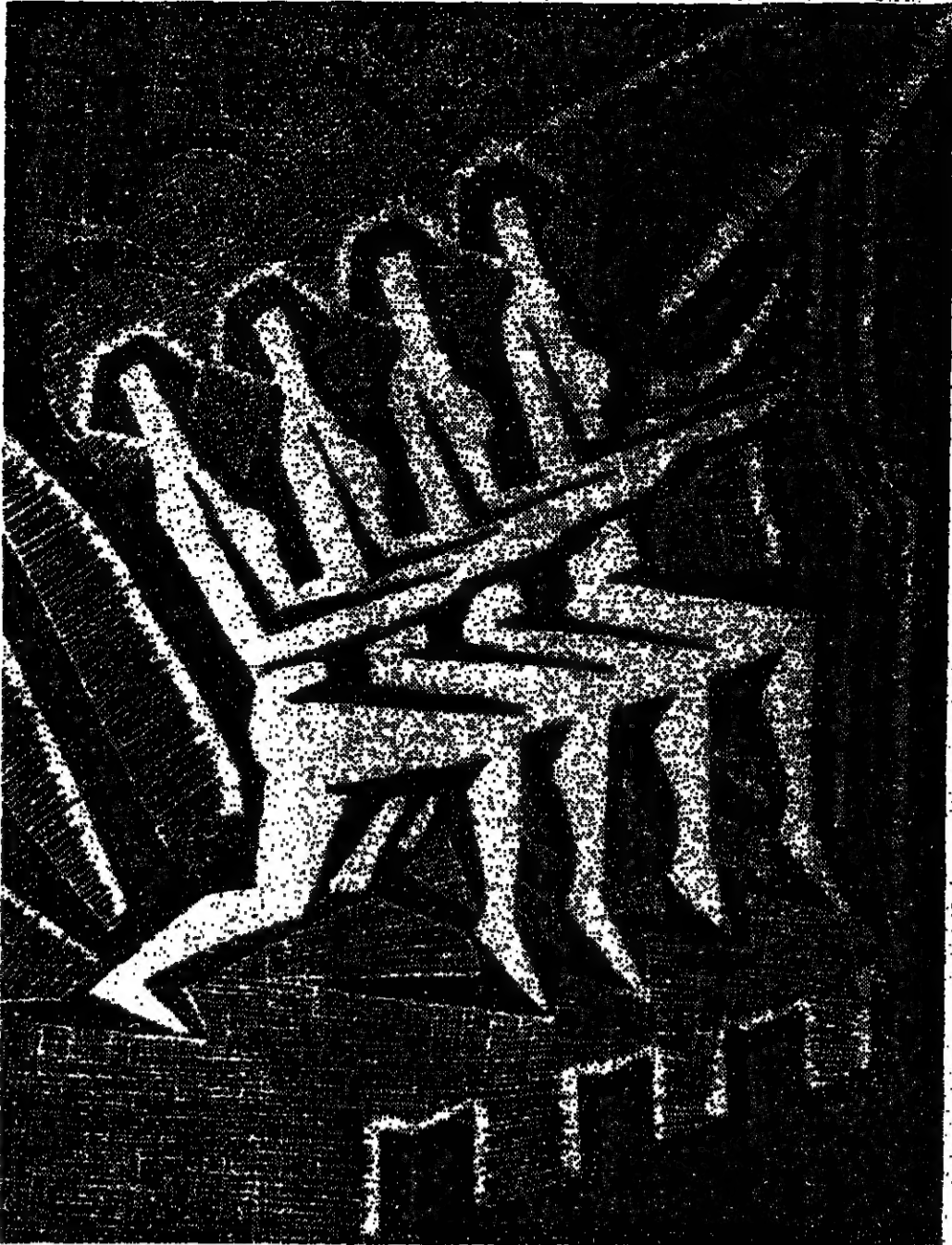
John Russell Taylor

Quiffelec/Cooper
St. John's

Max Harrison

Whatever the composers' dates may have been, classical and romantic tendencies seemed to alternate in the piano recital which Anne Quiffelec and Imogen Cooper gave yesterday lunchtime at St. John's. The theme of Mozart's *Variations, K 591*, of 1786, is ideal for alternate in that it virtually invites the creation of variants. These are written with a marvellous sensitivity to the four-handed medium and musical interest is particularly shared between the two players. The performance achieved grace without compromising the strength which lies beneath the work's light and luminous surface.

In character a large scherzo, Mendelssohn's *Allerleu Brülann*, Opus 52, of 1841 is far busier than the Mozart, even if it says rather less. However, it is quite evident in its feelings and the composer's exuberantly anticipated the modern concert grand piano when writing it. In one sense the *Allerleu* is more difficult than the Mozart because its element of overt display leads in some very tricky passages of ensemble. These were handled with admirable unanimity by Miss Quiffelec and Miss Cooper.



Folies Bergères by George Bissill, whose fame was brief but who now stands to be rediscovered at the Belgrave Gallery; and a puce-coloured bar shoe of the 1920s, on show at the ICA



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German appreciation of Debussy

Pelléas et Mélisande
Stuttgart

Kenneth Loveland

In *Pelléas et Mélisande* Debussy created a profound illustration of the power of music to lead words, in this case Maeterlinck's, past that from the imagination which they cannot penetrate alone, a masterpiece which is absolutely characteristic of himself, and essentially French. Yet two of the most perceptive productions it has received in recent years have been staged in German theatres.

The Munich Festival in 1973 had at least Jean-Pierre Ponnelle as producer and designer, a strong French oversight. The only slim French connection at Stuttgart is the pending departure of the musical director, Silvio Varviso, for the Paris Opéra. The producer is Götz Friedrich, the designer Andreas Reinhardt, and all the singers are new to their roles in the theatre. But together they have given the Württembergische Staatstheater a *Pelléas et Mélisande* in which render illusionary and fierce reality alternate and fuse into a spirited eloquence.

Professor Friedrich underlines the fact and the physical, sometimes mercilessly, yet the poetry remains unbroken. This is because for long stretches he is content to match Debussy's insinuation with his own, often hinting rather than stating. Ponnelle at Munich began with a horrifying flash of Pelléas clutching a rose, the knife between his shoulder blades, summarizing the opera's agony and fear before a note had been heard. Friedrich is content to start with suspicion and build the tensions from there.



Karan Armstrong as Mélisande

the frightened victim. The hunter will ride his time, but the knife is certain. This and the use of Pelléas clutching a rose, the knife between his shoulder blades, summarizing the opera's agony and fear before a note had been heard. Friedrich is content to start with suspicion and build the tensions from there.

Mélisande, the other that of Maeterlinck on the *château*. Death and decay are emphasized by the huddled mourners who move across the picture; Arkel's shaven-headed, hollow-faced, black-bearded servants look and move like funeral attendants. Yet as fear surrounds Mélisande like a creeping mist, for Arkel she is the promise of light, a promise realised by the child he carries away from the darkness as she dies.

description of the *château* in Maeterlinck ("tres vieux et tres sombre"). The giant trees that become the pillars of the *château* and the tower from which *Mélisande* lets her tresses fall are predictable, but their economy matches the music, and their flexibility ensures the flow which is essential to Debussy's vision. Some of the costumes suggest a clash of period; it is not often embarrassing.

Musically, this is a performance of quite outstanding excellence, to that a rare trophy is achieved. Silvio Varviso, supported by orchestral playing that is idiomatically informed, handles Debussy's score with a manifest concern for the beauty of its harmonic pattern, so that textures are subtly shaded, and instrumental colours blend and separate, lighten and darken in a way that reflects the opera's deepening emotional situation.

Two exceptionally fine personal studies lead a completely successful cast. The Pelléas of Ryland Davies is sung and acted with a sensitive feeling for the music, and his characterization is a Pelléas in which the singer is sensibly aware of the moment to which it is all leading, so that wonder grows gradually out of innocence, then awakens in a brief ecstasy of fulfilment at "Je t'ai trouvée". A Pelléas whose journey into madness has been traced inexorably. Wolfgang Schöne's Golaud progresses similarly; it is one of the strengths of the production that the half-brothers develop step by step. Schöne's singing is wonderfully rich and expressive, a baritone voice of colour and resonance used to telling effect, a presence commanding and dramatic.

In the show of the *Compagnie des Arts Français* work and allied pieces now at the Foulk Lewis Collection in Fulham Road, where it succeeds an equally impressive show of the other great Deco French furniture maker, Ruhlmann, we are offered an excellent opportunity to see exactly what Deco means. In the splendidly produced catalogue, Raymond Foulk argues convincingly for a clear separation to be made between the Deco artists proper—those who were very consciously inheritors of the great traditions of French furniture-making with all its immaculate craftsmanship in wood and inlaid work—the modernists, who tend to get lumped in with them at all part of a great vase *Assiette/Rogers*. Deco cynicism. Certainly one cannot question the brilliance with which *Sue et Mare* play variations on familiar shapes and patterns, smoothing a curve here and simplifying a line there, and on occasion decking the result out in rich and elaborate inlaid patterns which would have driven Ruhlmann mad, with alarm and perhaps also envy.

There are some pieces of furniture in the grand new show of *Sèvres* porcelain from the Royal Collection at the Queen's Gallery, which, curiously enough, show just where *Sue et Mare* are coming from, as the Americans say, where their feet are firmly planted if not exactly where their head is at. The prime reason for these pieces being on show is that they contain initials and plaques of *Sèvres*; the secondary reason is what gives the show its happy unity—along with paintings and other items from the same period, they help to fill in the psychological and artistic background to these rich and sometimes (one would have to say) garish pieces of conspicuous consumption. After looking round the show one can at least feel one has done *Sèvres*. As for the Deco, it is a little to remain altogether unimpressed by so much gilt and elaboration, so many man-hours so potently applied to things like the Louis XVI dinner and dessert service, only half finished in 1793, after 10 years in the works, I find that it is difficult also to warm to something so imperiously divorced from life.

Some of the shoes in *The Shoe Show* are pretty far divorced from life, too. But most of them seem down-to-earth and the show is otherwise just what you might expect from an improbable summer meeting between the Institute of Contemporary Arts and the Crafts Council. That is to say, it makes a lot of things which were in the back of your mind of primary importance in terms of their function, ones that sort of come from such basic practicalities, and leaves us to contemplate them as one (no puns, please) just looking at the objects. There are a few self-conscious pieces of modern fantasy; on the other hand (or foot), are sensible shoes of a beauty to take your breath away. Now that Allen Jones seems to have focused boots and shoes as a suitable subject for artistic treatment *The Shoe Show* seems likely to inspire many more to follow in his footsteps.

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In character a large scherzo, Mendelssohn's *Allerleu Brülann*, Opus 52, of 1841 is far busier than the Mozart, even if it says rather less. However, it is quite evident in its feelings and the composer's exuberantly anticipated the modern concert grand piano when writing it. In one sense the *Allerleu* is more difficult than the Mozart because its element of overt display leads in some very tricky passages of ensemble. These were handled with admirable unanimity by Miss Quiffelec and Miss Cooper.

CINEMAS

DATA CINEMA, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1006, 1007, 1008, 1009, 1010, 1011, 1012, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1016, 1017, 1018, 1019, 1020, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1025, 1026, 1027, 1028, 1029, 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033, 1034, 1035, 1036, 1037, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1041, 10

SPORT Football

Smith ends five good years with Wales and joins Hull City

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Wales had to concede defeat to Hull City yesterday when their respected English manager, Mike Smith, decided to join the third division club under a contract that the Welsh Football Association could not match. Hull may have to compensate because of Smith's contract had seven months to run.

Trevor Morris, the Welsh FA secretary, said he was losing Mr Smith with "considerable regret". He said the Welsh Football Association would not allow them to compete with Hull who are understood to have offered £250,000 for a seven-year agreement. Other higher placed and currently more illustrious clubs will be annoyed that they were outbid for a manager of integrity and sound coaching credentials.

Mr Smith and the Welsh assistant director of coaching, Bobby Brown, will start work at Boothferry Park on January 1. Hull dismissed their former manager, Keith Houghton, last week, not knowing that Wales had failed to qualify for the European Championship final rounds in Italy.

Mr Smith, who has been a manager as quickly as possible in preparation for World Cup qualifying matches.

Among leading managers Mr Smith is an enigma. Although the son of a professional player, his own career was spent as an amateur. He played for Loughborough Casuals, the Universities Athletic Union and Corinthian Casuals. After spending nine years teaching in Sussex, he was appointed to the post of coach to the Conference of English Grammar Schools and then made manager of the Welsh amateur team.

Despite his sound apprenticeship, he was seen as something of a quiet outsider on the day of his appointment as Wales manager in August, 1974. One of the reasons was that on the same day England's new manager, Don Revie, began his international career. At that time, Scotland's manager was Willie Ormond, and Northern Ireland's was Terry



Mike Smith: an enigma.

Saudi Arabia. His choice of Hull City, a lower tier division club, may surprise some larger clubs who would have welcomed his services but it is in keeping with one of football's less flamboyant men.

Revie's decision: Mr Revie, the former England manager, will take up his consultancy agreement with Leeds immediately but this does not mean that Leeds will necessarily be his services, the Press Association reports. After a Leeds board meeting last night, the club chairman, Manny Cusins, said: "The position regarding Mr Revie is that we came to an arrangement with him seven years ago when he was manager and before there was any question of him going to Dubai."

"The position is that he will be paid near enough £10,000 a year for nine years and it takes effect immediately. We can call upon him as a consultant for his advice if we wish to do so and we can require him to attend four board meetings a year should we want his advice but he has two more years to go abroad."

Names of the future written in the wind

By Stuart Jones
FA Youth 2

Like a giant fan a bone chilling, southerly wind stood on one rooftop at Roehampton yesterday and tried to blow all in its path across to the other. The 22 players, however, convincingly won the struggle against the elements, although the two sides finished deservingly on level terms, a result which pleased particularly the Public Schools. Last year they went down 7-0.

This year a rich, northern accent pervaded their side but it was the fact of only two southerners, Robson at the heart of the defence, who took the eye. He had to contend with three wingers, but so with a calm manner. Remarkably, he is only 15 years and two weeks old.

The other southerner, Wyatt, also distinguished himself by breaching the deadlock. Several half chances at 75 minutes had come and gone when he seized on a defensive error and lobbed, with neat precision, over the strangled Horn. But the blow did not more than sting the pride of the FA Youth. Within five minutes they were ahead.

First the diminutive Welsh, one of the internationalists, climbed high to head home a corner. Then a neat combination between the other two internationalists, B. Brooks and G. Gibson, opened a gap wide enough for Brooks, a smaller replica of Wilkins, his senior England colleague, to beat McKewen.

As the darkening canvas above began to match the red skirts of the Public Schools, to their credit, they made a last ditch stand. Robson's through ball to Wood free and, although Horn blocked his shot, Howard, a tireless runner up front, was at hand to tap in the rebound.

John Cartwright, the England Youth team manager, praised the battling qualities of the schoolboys and was particularly impressed by Robson. His assessment, Dick Robson, of Brentwood, also watched the performance with interest. "Just think," he said, "he was in detention on Friday afternoon."

Such names as Williams, Hoddle, Ellis, Barnes and Snelham, have emerged at this level and gone on to higher England honours. It may not be long before Robson finds himself at the foot of the ladder, then at least to the sky.

Public schools: M. McKewen (Oxford), W. Wyatt (Buckingham), G. Gibson (Buckingham), A. Robson (Buckingham), A. Brooks (Buckingham), M. Hoddle (Buckingham), J. Ellis (Buckingham), D. Barnes (Buckingham), P. Snelham (Buckingham), J. Cartwright (England Youth), D. Robson (Brentwood), M. Williams (Buckingham), P. Hoddle (Buckingham), J. Ellis (Buckingham), D. Barnes (Buckingham), P. Snelham (Buckingham).

Proudlove sent off as Stafford go out

A goal at the end of each half was enough to clinch Blackburn Rovers' passage to a third round home tie against Fulham and Stafford Rangers' gallant fight was narrow minutes when Proudlove was sent off after an altercation with Round. It was the second time this season that Proudlove had been sent off by the Rotherham referee, Arnold Challinor, the previous incident being at Boston.

Three Blackburn players had their names on the list, along with Deane of Stafford. Crawford put Blackburn ahead after 45 minutes when he collected a pass from Kendall, ran 40 yards and beat the advancing goalkeeper. The Blackburn defence, which has the best record in the third division, looked strangely out of touch and they came under pressure from the non-league side.

Proudlove and Nixon went close in the first half and although Blackburn looked more settled after the break, Stafford also had chances. Black's goalkeeper, man spurred good openings and the Alliance side should have had at least one goal for their efforts. McKewen, who has suffered a second injury time.

Council advised to review situation

Paul Stephenson, the only black member of the Sports Council, told yesterday's council meeting in London, attended by the Minister for Sport, Hector Monro, that he was totally opposed to the Africa South Africa team, which was to visit South Africa next month, led by Dick Jeays, the coach-manager. There was a "considerable" number of members of the council, however, who were in favour of the mission; moreover, it was difficult to understand how the mission could be approved from their secretary-general, James Claude Ganga of the Congo, the post of assistant secretary-general, Reuter reports.

The officials said the decision was made by the SCSA's executive committee to reject the proposal from their secretary-general, James Claude Ganga of the Congo, the post of assistant secretary-general, Reuter reports.

Mr Ganga, who has held the top post for 13 years, is trying to fight a challenge from another African, Lamina Be of Senegal. It is the first time a candidate has stood against Mr Ganga, who is criticised by some Africans for being too much into fighting South Africa's apartheid system to the detriment of African sport in general.

Whoever won last night's vote is expected to have his power severely limited under changes to the SCSA statutes which would give more authority to the council. The boycott of events involving Britain, which is expected to be approved, has been extended to next year's Olympic Games in Moscow.

A founder member of the SCSA, said in Nairobi yesterday that an African boycott of the Moscow Olympics would be unreasonable. Isaac Lugonzo, of Kenya, who is also a former chairman of Kenya National Sports Council, said the South African Barbarians rugby team's visit to Britain earlier this year "should not be approved, but it should be left to the discretion of the British Olympic Committee."

The views expressed by Paul Stephenson are being taken into account by the Sports Council. A full itinerary of meetings and visits is being drawn up and will include all the sports bodies in South Africa, and as many individuals and other organisations as can be fitted in at home or abroad. It is a fact that the match even if it were to be held in the way from Chesterfield.

Show jumping The Smiths keep the family flag flying

By Pamela Macgregor-Morris

The closing afternoon of the Olympia International jumping show was dominated by Smith, father and son, the former of whom has been a dominant power and speed competition on Sanyo Sammar, who heads the national public relations team, won the two seconds from Malcolm Pryor, on Yorkshire Relish. Robert kept the family flag flying, won the National Relish, a winner here last night. Portugal's Manuel de Costa made the early running on Fostale, but was overtaken by the young Smith, jumping near the end, cut the time to 51.3 sec. Finally Gilles Bertrando de la Motte, on his own, won the closing grand prix of this five day show, in £200,000 the richer,

Racing Taste of Yorkshire relish at a London lunch

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

There were two themes central to this year's Derby awards which were presented by Lord Derby at the annual lunch given in London yesterday by the Horserace Writers and Reporters Association. The first concerned the stables controlled so astutely yet so differently by Peter Easterby and Henry Cecil.

Easterby was presented with the Noddy Hunt trainers award for the second time in three years. The only time I seem to find myself in London these days is to receive either an award or to be up before the beaks in Portman Square, he remarked wryly with a typical touch of Yorkshire humour.

"That man Easterby simply has to be a ball of a good trainer," said the writer. "I remember said to me recently and yesterday his remarks were widely endorsed. Easterby has worked wonders with the likes of Sea Plover, but on his own he has won the Chatterbox Gold Cup winner, Alverton, who was killed in this year's Grand National, who was formerly in my mind as Mrs Solis Jones recalled the owners award on behalf of the Swadlow stud, a company which perpetuates the sporting traditions of her late father, Sir John Swadlow.

After all the triumphs of last summer it was hardly surprising to see Henry Cecil and Joe Mercer and Reporters Association. Cecil's strike rate this year was quite phenomenal. Next year he will have 155 horses behind him, he said. He is not known, but with contributions from Sir Gordon Richards, Lester Piggott, Fred Winter and John Frankham, it is good reading, nevertheless.

The photograph on the jacket was taken by Garry Graham, who was the first photographer in the sector. It was during the absence of The Times earlier this year that Guinness Superlatives listed Cecil as the best trainer in the world. At £1.95 this gives the reader a real taste of what Cecil can do. The text was written by a former and former jockey, John Oaksey and Richard Phipps.

first time this year, received a warm reception when Lord Derby presented him with his award. Mercer's success this year coincided with the publication of a book called My Greatest Race (Michael Joseph, £7.50) edited by John Hughes, this book gives 30 top jockeys the opportunity to tell the story of their greatest triumph.

Quite what Clement Freud is doing in the sector, who was, after all, closely associated with that great racehorse, Brigadier Gerard, is not known, but with contributions from Sir Gordon Richards, Lester Piggott, Fred Winter and John Frankham, it is good reading, nevertheless.

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Gifford can continue to carry all before him

By Michael Seely

Josh Gifford is well on the way to one of his best ever seasons. The seven-year-old's impressive form has been working out his improving young steed, Jack Madness, looks likely to finish second in the Welsh Grand National, sponsored by Joe Coral, at Cheltenham on Saturday.

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Golf Torrance breaks record by one stroke

Call, Dec 16-5am Torrance of Britain won the Colombian Open here today by three strokes from Ray Carrasco of the United States. In the second round, Torrance broke the course record set by Arnold Palmer 23 years ago with a 65, one stroke better than Palmer.

Bernard Langer (West Germany) finished ahead of Torrance and Carrasco in the final round, which finished with the Colombian Open, although he failed to win the title. Langer, who won the tournament in 1978, finished with a 71, one stroke better than Carrasco, who finished with a 72.

The British and Ireland PGA Club, who beat the Americans for the second year running in the title of the PGA in September, were placed third.

Writers' trophy goes to Ballesteros

Severiano Ballesteros, who won the Open Championship at Lytham last July, is the 1979 winner of the Association of Golf Writers' Trophy. The trophy is awarded to the man who has done most for European golf during the year.

Ballesteros, aged 22, is the first Continental player to win the award which, until this year, was confined to residents of Britain and Ireland. He won the title by three shots from Jack Nicklaus and Ben Crenshaw and was only the second Continental winner. He also won the LPGA English classic, but narrowly failed to head the European Order of Merit for a fourth successive year. He finished first place to Sandy Lyle, second in the golf writers' poll.

The British and Ireland PGA Club, who beat the Americans for the second year running in the title of the PGA in September, were placed third.

Ludlow programme

12.30 AMONTILLADO HURDLE (Handicap: selling: £367: 2m)	
1	221- Space Song, W. Whiston, 6-13-0
2	400-43- Bonnie de Lyon, C. Phipps, 6-11-11
3	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
4	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
5	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
6	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
7	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
8	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
9	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
10	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
11	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
12	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
13	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
14	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
15	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
16	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
17	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
18	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
19	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
20	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
21	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
22	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
23	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
24	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
25	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
26	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
27	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
28	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
29	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
30	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11

Folkestone programme

12.45 "NO SILVER" HURDLE (Div I: Novices: £576: 2m)	
1	4-4-11- Surprising Prince, J. Gifford, 6-13-0
2	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
3	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
4	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
5	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
6	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
7	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
8	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
9	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
10	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
11	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
12	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
13	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
14	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
15	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
16	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
17	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
18	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
19	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
20	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
21	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
22	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
23	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
24	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
25	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
26	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
27	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
28	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
29	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
30	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11

Athletics Athletes club propose plan for open competition

The British Amateur Athletics Board are to be asked how far they are prepared to support a plan to set up an official system of open athletics. The initiative comes from the International Amateur Athletic Club, which has been asked to set up a West European Federation in which paid and amateur athletes could compete alongside each other.

The draft proposal was due to have been discussed at Sunday's annual meeting of the IAC at Loughborough, but was left off the agenda due to pressure of other

Ludlow programme

1.30 CLARET HURDLE (Handicap: 1983: 2m)	
1	221- Space Song, W. Whiston, 6-13-0
2	400-43- Bonnie de Lyon, C. Phipps, 6-11-11
3	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
4	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
5	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
6	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
7	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
8	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
9	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
10	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
11	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
12	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
13	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
14	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
15	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
16	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
17	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
18	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
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27	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
28	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
29	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
30	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11

Folkestone programme

1.15 ALDINGTON CHASE (Handicap: Novices: £1,082: 2m)	
1	221- Space Song, W. Whiston, 6-13-0
2	400-43- Bonnie de Lyon, C. Phipps, 6-11-11
3	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
4	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
5	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
6	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
7	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
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29	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
30	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11

Ludlow selections

By Michael Seely

12.30 Bonnie de Lyon, 1.0 Chatterbox, 1.30 Knight O' The Realm, 2.0 Big Ben, 2.30 Coolifancy, 3.0 Murray Thawin.

Folkestone selections

By Michael Seely

12.45 Surprising Prince, 1.15 Southern Mobile, 1.45 Captain Chesko, 1.55 C.A.S.A.R. Field is specially recommended, 2.45 Sandor, 3.15 Quire Hours.

Rugby League The incredible Hull

By Keith Macklin

There is a man in Hull who will not rest until he has won the World Cup. He is not a player, but a manager, and his name is Keith Macklin. He is the manager of the Hull Rugby League team, and he is determined to win the World Cup. He is a man of great determination and courage, and he is not afraid to take risks. He is a man who is not afraid to stand up to the opposition, and he is not afraid to take the blame for his own mistakes. He is a man who is not afraid to take the blame for his own mistakes, and he is not afraid to take the blame for his own mistakes.

Ludlow programme

2.30 VINTAGE PORT CHASE (Handicap: £1,071: 3m)	
1	221- Space Song, W. Whiston, 6-13-0
2	400-43- Bonnie de Lyon, C. Phipps, 6-11-11
3	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
4	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
5	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
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29	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11
30	100-00- Paddy, J. Phipps, 6-11-11

Folkestone programme

1.10.13. CHRISTMAS MURDER		ALSO RAN: 3-4 H-07000	
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Brotherly love, all too absent round the table



Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo at Lancaster House.

If the war of words which has characterized the peace talks at Lancaster House has proved a failure, in this sense the parties, or at least a decent respect, one side for the other, then the long negotiations at Lancaster House have proved a failure.

The Patriotic Front have never concealed the contempt which they feel for the Africans who as they see it, sold out by joining Bishop Muzorewa's "supper" regime. They despise them more than the whites do the Rhodesia Front. Overall, they have dismissed their opponents as being beneath serious consideration morally and politically.

These feelings are reciprocated. If less virulently, in the Rhodesians' attitude to the guerrilla leaders. Personally, they fear and mistrust them. Nor, as the often repeated charge of "communism" shows, do they have much comprehension of the guerrillas' nationalism or their politics.

But while the two sides come out of the conference holding each other in mutual distrust, there is a significant difference in their present standing. The Patriotic Front assent at each stage of the conference has been grudging. Now that they accept the ceasefire, they enter the run-up to the elections feeling resentment, believing in some respects they are being cheated, and their bitterness is mainly directed at the British Government, in the person of Lord Carrington, the conference chairman.

By contrast Bishop Muzorewa's delegation emerges in good order, with a sense that it has secured the much larger, more important of these was probably the war wearyness and economic strains of the Patriotic Front's position, the states on which they depend for sanctuary and support.

All the more surprising therefore that the Patriotic Front have seemed so slow to see which way the wind was blowing at Lancaster House. Again and again their handling of the negotiations has seemed

David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent.

It is well known that, in Santayana's words, "Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it." What is less well known is that there are some people who remember the past perfectly well and enjoy repeating it. And any one who heard the self-righteous, bumptious, blarneying, mean-spirited drone of Mr James Wellbeloved, MP, on the radio at the weekend, talking about the affairs of Young Winston, will know what I mean. You do not have to be more than about 35 to have first-hand acquaintance with the *Affairs of 1963*, and even if you are a good deal younger you can read one of the many accounts still available of those heady days. I wrote one such myself, in my book *The Pendulum Years*, from which I am going to take the liberty of quoting today, because from some of the comments passed so far in the matter of Mr Churchill it is easy to believe that we have learned nothing whatever from the shadowy witch-hunt which pursued the central figure in that earlier disgrace.

For some of the lines in the present drama are taken word-for-word from the earlier one; I would not have believed without the sensible and true avowal of mine ears that there could be people today believing that they are concerned about the security aspects of the Churchill affair, just as their predecessors did.

What vile cant it is, what vile cant it is! Mr Churchill had an affair with the wife of a man who, among other things, dealt in armaments on a considerable scale. Mr Churchill, for part of the time during which the liaison continued, was a junior defence spokesman for the then Conservative Opposition. Therefore...

But, therefore what? Would Mr Wellbeloved or anybody else chasing this party and flea-bitten hare, care to describe the presumed trait of events by which Mr Churchill's role as an assistant to the Tories' front-bench defence expert connects in a sinister manner with his role as the

lover of the ex-wife of an armaments trader?

In case Mr Wellbeloved and company are reluctant to accede to my request, let me show them how it might be done. Let us envisage Mr Churchill and Mrs Khushnig relaxing together. She smooths his brow, he backs. He sips a drink, she nibbles a stuffed olive. Then she speaks.

"Darling."

"Mmmmm."

"It must be so interesting, the work you do—I mean, having to see all those generals and admirals, and discuss the defences of your country."

"Oh, well, you know—it's really just another job, and besides, I'm not exactly a general myself, or even a minister."

"No, but you must know a lot that you can never reveal."

"Well, not really—I mean I don't know how the H-bomb works, or anything like that."

"Darling, I'm sure you're being too modest. I bet you know lots about whether the Belgian-made C23 rifle is going to become a standard issue in NATO forward areas despite the rival claims on resources of the American-patented recoilless fast-loading anti-tank projectile-launcher, and how far cross-strandification of weapons systems has gone; and particularly whether Saccor has expressed himself satisfied with the rate of progress lately, and when the long-promised—may, impatiently-awaited—redemption of 'tuc-nukes' for Back is to take place."

"Well, funny you should ask that, because it so happens that I do know a bit about it. For instance..."

Yes? Something like that, yes? Or not? And if not, what? Just how is this a matter which concerns security? How did Mr Churchill give away military secrets he didn't have to a woman who wouldn't have understood them acting on behalf of a man who could have made no use of them?

Bernard Levin

The ghost of witch-hunts past

If it didn't take place as I have suggested, how did it take place? And if it didn't take place, and couldn't have taken place, and wouldn't have taken place, and didn't take place, what is left of Mr Wellbeloved and his "case"?

An odour by no means of sanctity. And some small even worse. Mr Denis Canavan, MP, for instance, affects to believe that Mr Churchill should "do the honourable thing and resign his seat," apparently on the ground that he has committed adultery. Mr Canavan's researches into the activities of MPs, the fruits of which are to be published in a six-volume, copiously-illustrated study by the Oxford University Press, are still incomplete; still, they already show that if every Member of Parliament who had committed adultery were to resign his or her seat, there would be so much green leather vacated by the resigning ones that inexperienced visitors to the public gallery might assume that they had come to the wrong place and were at Wembley Football Stadium. (And this, I may say, does not include those like the former Chairman of Mr Canavan's party who was in the habit, while a member, of suggesting the occasional House of Commons members on the premises—and was not even a member of the Kitchen Committee.)

O hypocrisy, what crimes are committed in thy name! And not committed just once, but again and again, down the years and the decades.

With a roar of unholy joy, I wrote in *The Pendulum Years*, "the deprived, slung themselves on the sated," and I went on to quote Swift's "Censure is the Tax a man pays to the Public for being eminent." And here we go again.

True, a few members of the former cast will not be treading the boards this time. Sir Harold Wilson is unlikely to declare that the revelation of Mr Churchill's affair has "shocked the moral conscience of the nation." It is only because so many of Sir Harold's friends have since found themselves escaping criminal prosecution only through timely death, suicide or precipitate flight from the country that he might find it easier not to speak in such strident terms today, and Mr John Cordle will hardly insist this time that the business is "an affront to the Christian conscience of the nation at a time when standards in public life need to be maintained at the highest level," his own claim to be a good judge of the standards of public life having been brought rather sharply into question when he was obliged to resign from the House of Commons after the disclosure that he had been in the pay of Mr Poulson.

But that will leave plenty more. I called the 1963 affair "the most stinging episode of the entire decade." And I went on to say something that Mr Churchill may now perhaps draw some comfort from:

When, perhaps tomorrow and perhaps next year, another public man is found to have private standards that do not accord with the nation's unspoken assumptions about public life, he may well admit to the House of Commons that his sexual relations with one woman or the House of Commons would like them to be, and trust successfully to public opinion, purged of guilt by its excess of righteousness in the Sixties, to defend him against the House's reaction.

I am glad to offer an *amende* to Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services. I had understood that his department had approached officials at Buckingham Palace and raised the question of the "Appointment" citations for suppliers of cigarettes, whether or not pitched into his department and him.

I naturally accept his assurance, which he gave immediately after my column appeared, that that is not so, and I apologise for my error and misplaced censure. I was, I am sure, even so, much obliged.

And later in the book I summed up the whole business in words which do not seem to me to need the slightest amendment to describe the events of the past few days. Of the man in the eye of the artificial storm, I wrote that he

was not as good as the impossible and imaginary figure of the public man who had to do no wrong, been invested with qualities as men could possess or at least maintain for long, and who had then been put under half-fearful, half-gleeful watch by a public which was waiting for him to fall. Nor was he as bad as, once he fell, he was made out to be, when the hell burst, the truth about the public man (which is only, after all, that they are the same men as private ones) became known, and with it the recognition that the whole argument was spurious, a screen thrown up to hide the real argument behind.

But if the present argument is spurious, a screen thrown up to hide the real argument behind, what real content is there in the affair of Mr Churchill? Well, whatever it is, it is not a public matter. The only people concerned are Mr Churchill, Mrs Churchill and Mrs Khushnig, and the first two—the third having bowed out of the business—will settle, or have already settled, matters between them in a manner which they find fitting, and which we have no *lopus standi* to find anything at all.

The House of Commons behaved disgracefully in 1963. It then had some shadow of a miserable and unworthy excuse in the claim to be representing public opinion. I do not believe it has any such excuse today. The people are usually wiser than their masters, and in these matters almost invariably so. Faced with a proposal that it should discuss Mr Churchill's behaviour, the House of Commons will be wise to turn to Next Business and at once.

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As the Labour Party again aims its guns at private education, John Rae looks to the future

Will Labour and the public schools ever live together?

In its relations with the public schools, the Labour Party shows all the frustration of a Victorian husband who cannot find a legal basis for disposing of his wife and has not the will to attempt a cruder solution. The party abuses and threatens: the schools respond with spirit or temerity according to their confidence at the time. A seldom occurs to either side that since they have got to live together they might as well work out a means of doing so that would benefit everyone, not least the children.

This negative and short-sighted bickering is a comparatively recent aspect of the relationship. The Labour Party has a long-standing aversion to what it regards as centres of privilege whether in the form of public schools or the house of Lords, but until 1964 the public schools were not even mentioned in a Labour election manifesto. The hostility was expressed in speeches and resolutions at the party's annual conference. Manifestos express the modest expectations, conference resolutions the uncompromising hopes. A characteristic resolution advocated "a planned attack on the so-called public schools, this bastion of privilege and royal road to positions of power and influence."

The public schools were the opponents, if not exactly speechless with rage, at least struggling in the cross-currents of reason and emotion. Such passion has never been translated into political action. In the first half of this century the party was not in a position to initiate radical reform. Even the sweeping Labour victory of 1945 did not herald an end to the on public schools, though many Labour voters believed that it would. The porter I hailed to take my trunk to the end of term, told me that summer day he refused to do so. "Those days are over," he told me. But there he was wrong. Clement Attlee's Government had more important things to do.

The 13 years of Conservative rule intensified Labour hostility to public schools but that abolition was not an option. "There are those who would like to see the public schools abolished," said the *Marxist* in 1958. "But this is not a realistic proposal. Just as it was found impossible, in introducing the National Health Service, to forbid the existence of a private hospital, so it is difficult in a democracy to forbid parents to pay for sending their children to independent schools if they choose to spend their money in this way."

But the party was not prepared to do nothing. The pressure for action came from the Gaikellies not from the far left. The latter had no interest in integrating the public schools into the general education system any more than it had in reforming the House of Lords; until revolution swept all privilege away, the public schools and the House of



John Rae

Is it too much to expect that the schools and the Labour Party should start discussing their differences without bigotry and dogmatism?

stop. Its proposals for using the public schools to meet a supposed boarding need were not taken seriously by anyone, and its recommendation that the direct grant should be ended only served to divide the independent sector more completely from the mainstream.

The failure of the Public Schools Commission forced moderates to think in terms of abolition. In 1973, Mr Roy Hattersley, the Labour education spokesman, put this new hard line to conference of headmasters: "I must show you how I leave you in no doubts about our serious intention initially to reduce, and eventually to abolish private education in this country." But once again the gap between intention and action was wide. The 1974-75 Labour Government did nothing about the public schools apart from exploring the possibility of removing charitable status.

Now in opposition, the Labour Party is again making threatening noises. The party's National Executive Council has set up a working party to consider several options of ways to attack the independent schools. "Once again," the working party will report to the party to conclude that abolition is not an option. The public schools and the Labour Party have got to live together whether they like it or not. Is

it too much to expect that both sides will recognize their differences without bigotry and dogmatism?

Not. Kinloch, the present Labour spokesman, has invited the public schools to define their role. That is a fair question. I hope the schools will respond by affirming their belief in the value of an independent sector. But they must go further than that. Freedom, as headmasters are fond of telling their senior pupils, imposes responsibilities. It is one of the responsibilities of the public schools to demonstrate that they are not just interested in their own survival but have a long-term contribution to make to the education provision of the country.

The author is Head Master of Westminster School and a former Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference.

LONDON DIARY

Getting on the Jenkins bandwagon

So far the call of Mr Roy Jenkins, the well-paid Messiah of Brussels, for a strengthening of the "radical centre" of British politics might seem to have fallen on relatively stony soil.

True, Mr Dick Taverne, the former Labour Minister and Independent Democratic Labour MP, has since spoken on a Liberal platform just before the Berkshire South West by-election. But his advice to Labour supporters to vote Liberal seems to have been largely ignored.

Beneath the surface, however, it seems that seeds are beginning to germinate. Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, has been in touch with Mr Jenkins. Since the Liberals cannot hope to get into power by themselves, it would be helpful if the "radical centre" pursued a parallel or convergent, rather than divergent course.

And then there have been informal discussions between potentially radical central characters like Taverne himself, Mr David Marguard, former Labour MP and Jenkins adviser in Brussels, and Mr Robert MacLennan MP, another former Labour junior minister.

In my view the Jenkins bandwagon will carry fairly soon," says Taverne. He has spoken to five sitting Labour MPs who think a split

Another Blunt apostle?

Did Anthony Blunt's Cambridge conversion to Soviet-style communism include the mighty if eccentric Austrian-born philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein?

The question is prompted by the coincidence of the sale at Sotheby's yesterday of a postcard sent by Wittgenstein from Moscow on September 18, 1935 to the Cambridge philosopher G. E. Moore, and first details of Wittgenstein's association with the Cambridge Apostles society in Paul Levy's recent book on G. E. Moore.

Wittgenstein returned to Cambridge early in 1929: he had left in 1914 to join the Austrian army, and had been captured and imprisoned by the Allies in southern Italy in November 1918. He rejoined the Apostles at a supper party given by Maynard Keynes on January 19, at which Blunt, a new Apostle, was also present.

Clearly Wittgenstein was an enthusiastic about Marxism, because in July 1935 Keynes wrote to the Soviet ambassador Ivan Maisky, saying Wittgenstein wanted to live "more or

less about putting my career as an MP at risk."



less permanently" in Russia, and although not a Communist Party member, had strong sympathies with the way of life which he believed the new regime stood for.

New ambassador

When I was *The Times* correspondent in Bonn, from 1969 to 1972, there were two exceptionally able spokesmen at the Foreign Ministry. One was Dr Guido Brunner, now EEC Commissioner for Energy in Brussels; his predecessor was Dr Jürgen Rübner, who at the age of 49 became the Federal Republic's ambassador in London last month.

Dr Rübner is a tallish, dark, rather good-looking man who combines charm and ability without a large measure of the latter, he would certainly not have survived for three years in his present high-ranking post as Chancellor Schmidt's senior adviser on foreign affairs and defence at the Bonn Chancellery.

Born in Bochum, in the Ruhr, the son of a mechanical engineer, Dr Rübner studied economics and law in Munich, Münster, Uppsala, and Bonn. His first try abroad as a scholar was to London as a guest of the London Federation of Boys' Clubs. Later he did a vacation course at Leeds.

Chelsification

The pleasure of living in Hampstead's suburban upper slopes is marred by only two things: the horrendous rates (second only to Westminster's); and the horrendous Chelsification of the village.

At the last count, there were in Heath St and High St 40 fashion boutiques, leaving out old-established clothes shops; and 31 restaurants, both categories catering almost entirely to passing trade.

At old-fashioned from-moongers, food shops, laundrettes and the like—bureaucrats seem curiously resilient—go to the wall, Hampstead's residents have to range further and further afield for necessities. Alas, some of the old-fashioned have been tempted to sell off. What victims some locals is that the landlords, in many cases the GLC or Camden Council, have no powers to stop the waves of commercialism from running rampant over social and community needs.

Strategic studies
As if to give some intellectual gravitas to all those restaurants, craft shops and cheese vendors in the Covent Garden area, the International Institute for Strategic Studies has just moved from its cramped quarters in Adam Street into a four-

floor building on one of the quiet corners of Tavistock Street.

The freehold and refurbishment cost some £900,000, says the Institute's director Mr Christopher Barrett. So far some £650,000 has been raised, roughly a third from "democratic governments" (European, North American and Asian), who were asked for help for the first time. The rest came from the Institute's foundation (the Institute's history, and individual and corporate members, of which there are roughly 2,000 in more than 60 countries).

The new building was inaugurated with a conference on instabilities in the Gulf. A sign, says Barrett, the strategic studies should be less exclusively concerned with east-west problems and increasingly with those of the third world.

Richard Webb, of the young Euter publishing house of Webb and Bower, believes he has pulled off the publishing coup of the century: he has bought the West German and Commonwealth rights for *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*, for a four-figure sum. Edith Holden's charming, illustrated journal has now sold more than one million copies in hardback in the United Kingdom and Commonwealth, where it is published jointly with Michael Joseph, and a further half million elsewhere, including Japan. A Russian translation is a possibility.

Roger Berthoud

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A LEAKY UMBRELLA

"Once great power is granted, there is a danger of it being abused. Rather than risk such abuse, it is... the duty of the courts to construe the statute as to see that it encroaches as little as possible upon the liberties of the people of England." On the surface, it seems that some violence was done to that principle—the words are Lord Denning's in the House of Lords last week. The House of Lords last week, in the case of *Lord Denning v. The House of Lords*, decided by the law lords, in both the application of an illiberal law was upheld. In each, a decision of the Court of Appeal, presided over by Lord Denning, was reversed.

Throughout the history of the English legal system there have existed two broad strands of judicial approach. There have been those judges who have taken the view that, without usurping the functions of Parliament, a judge has the duty to interpret the law, as far as he can, in a way which accords with social and personal justice, which upholds rather than destroys the civil liberties of the individual, which looks with suspicion and not equanimity on the increasing encroachment of the state and other power-groups in the lives of citizens. Lord Denning is the most distinguished living and Lord Mansfield the most distinguished historic example of such a judicial activist.

There is another kind of judge who sees his task as maintaining the authority of the state, interpreting Acts of Parliament narrowly, supporting the words of the law in preference to the justice of the case, and affirming that it is for Parliament to change a law that turns out to be unjust or absurd, and not for judges to achieve that result through statutory interpretation. In recent years, the House of Lords has, in general, followed that path, and Lord Devlin has recently, in *The Judge* (Oxford University Press), presented a powerfully argued case in support of judicial conservatism. There is something to be said for both approaches, though our admiration goes to Lord Denning. But at a time when an increasing number of laws are being passed which adversely affect the freedom of the individual—there are,

for instance, more than 200 enactments giving powers to various inspectors to enter private premises—it is of fundamental importance that judicial interpretation should not further diminish the rights of the individual against potentially oppressive conduct by the more powerful. It is essential that the courts do not allow those who have power to exercise it without restraint. One method by which the courts can impose control—and they have done it in this way for centuries—is by applying objective, rather than subjective criteria, and using the test of reasonableness.

In recent years there has been some concern that the House of Lords has, in its judgments, been unnecessarily supportive of authority. The expense of the individual that they have accepted—unreasonable official excuses. On the fact of it, the cases last week bear this out. Closer scrutiny, however, does not support such a harsh stricture, though it does leave more than a little room for unease.

In *Express Newspapers Ltd v. MacShane*, the issue was whether or not refusal to handle Press Association copy on the part of journalists who were not themselves in any dispute—secondary blacking—was "in furtherance of a trade dispute", and therefore immune from civil action against them by their employers. The Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 confers on unions a vast array of immunities from such action. These immunities are usually available even where a great deal of harm has resulted from a union's activities. It is accordingly crucial that such a law should be interpreted restrictively. The House of Lords, unanimously, held that the action by the journalists fulfilled the test of being "in furtherance of a trade dispute", thus providing legal authority in support of secondary blacking.

The trade unions should not, however, rejoice too soon. Four of the five judges rejected the purely subjective test, but the majority was not enough for the unionist to believe that his action was in furtherance of a dispute, even if that is an

absurd and totally unrealistic belief to hold. There must be, the four law lords emphasised, something more. The belief that the action was in furtherance of a trade dispute must not only be honest but also reasonable, and the courts have the right to judge on the reasonableness or otherwise of such a view. It is unfortunate that Lord Diplock, perhaps inadvertently favoured the subjective test, which would make an already intolerable Act even more anti-libertarian.

In *Commissioner of Inland Revenue v. Rossminster Ltd*, an early morning raid by tax inspectors on a business, and on private homes connected with it, was held to be valid, by a majority of four judges to one. There are suspicions that the tax inspectors were on a fishing expedition to stop not tax fraud but legal avoidance. The search warrants were issued by a circuit judge, as laid down in the relevant Act. The dissenting judge, in the House of Lords, Lord Salmon, took the view that the circuit judge had not inquired into the evidence backing up the Inland Revenue's assertion, on oath, that a tax fraud was suspected, but had issued the warrant on the basis only of what he had been told. The other four law lords, while accepting that the circuit judge had the duty to look behind the tax inspectors' assertions, made the assumption that he had done so. There does not seem to have been any investigation of whether or not the judge had in fact taken any such steps.

The approach adopted by the judges in that case seems therefore to have been a sufficient one in law; they accepted that search warrants must only be given when the evidence justifies it; Lord Salmon's reasoning on the facts is more convincing than that of his colleagues. On the basis of last week's decisions, judgment on the performance of the House of Lords must be given. In neither case did they convey the impression that they took the liberty of the subject seriously. If our liberties had to be protected by them, they would prove a leaky umbrella.

THE MOVING FINGER POINTS TO STANSTED

It is a curious irony that the battle of Stansted, the most recent victory over the expansionists, should have been fought in the sixties and seventies, should in the end rebound on the victors. Stansted showed how hard it was politically to impose a major national airport on a local community without irresistible evidence that the choice was right. This led to the Roskill inquiry, an heroic attempt to secure irresistible force by a technique for attaching objective prices to subjective values. The government of the day immediately reaffirmed the role of the subjective by backing quite another horse to the one Roskill's method had led to. Soon afterwards, in 1973, oil prices threw into disarray all the buoyant traffic predictions that previous schemes had been based on.

The logic of this train of events has inclined governments ever since to seek an alternative which would give scope for a wide variety of rates of traffic growth without the vast expense and controversy that would surround proposals for a wholly new airport. Implicitly, and now explicitly, they have been drawn back, irresistibly, to Stansted again.

Roskill summarily excluded Stansted from his short list on the grounds that too many people

lived near it and would suffer excessively from a major increase in its use (as present it handles about 10 million passengers a year, compared to about twenty million for Heathrow). This argument still holds great force. If the choice were between Stansted and a brand-new airport elsewhere, it would be easy to find a candidate better from this point of view (although rather more expensive as well). But that is not the choice.

The catastrophic end to aviation growth that some predicted in 1973 has not happened. Demand is still steadily climbing, and the post-Ayatollah forecasts that Mr John Nott based his arguments on yesterday imply a similar course of growth in the coming decade to the forecasts made in the White Paper nearly two years ago. They may be wrong, but they may be right. Air communications are too important to Britain's trading role, and too expensive, for us to disregard either possibility. In view of the uncertainties over world oil supplies, and the need to avoid extra public spending, it would be folly to embark on a large-scale project at Stansted or anywhere else. We must use what scope there is for piecemeal expansion at existing airports.

It is Stansted's misfortune that it has more room for growth than Heathrow, Gatwick or

Luton. The immediate proposal is that Stansted, already destined to cope with four million passengers a year, should be expanded to handle fifteen million. With additional capacity at the other airports, this should be enough to meet demand up to 1990. But it must be admitted that if demand is still rising by then, the expansion already made at Stansted would greatly strengthen the case for choosing it for development into an airport of the largest size, handling about fifty million passengers annually.

The logic of this approach is strong, harsh as it must seem in Essex. It would be stronger if the government kept its options wider by holding open the possibility of a fifth terminal at Heathrow or a second runway at Gatwick. It is right and fair to warn the people of Stansted of the risk that their district faces towards the end of the century. It may be hoped that before then developments in technology may reduce the necessity for long runways and the nuisance of aeroplanes overhead. In a changed economic circumstance, the case for a wholly new airport in a less heavily populated area may regain its attractions. But as things stand now, it is right to make it clear that the old cloud must again hang over Stansted.

THE UNIONISTS SHOULD JOIN THE TALKS

Mr Humphrey Atkins has won round the SDLP to his devotion to Ulster. Aspects of Irish unity, while not on the agenda, are not to be ruled out of order either. The addition of this tinge of green to the proceedings has not switched off the Rev Ian Paisley, who continues to wear the improbable disguise of a moderate. The conference, including also the Alliance Party, is expected to get going on January 7, but still with the intended absence of the Ulster Unionists, the party that had more votes than any other in the general election in May, three times as many as Mr Paisley's party. Although Mr Paisley since his personal success in the European election would like to be thought to speak comprehensively for Protestant Ulster, the fact is that the larger part of the spectrum of unionist opinion will not be represented at Mr Atkins's conference.

Difficult as it is for them to do so, the leadership of the Ulster Unionist Party should now

consent to go along. They had sound, though not it must be said sufficient, reasons for thinking that a conference with this agenda at this time would do more harm than good to the strife-torn political society of the province; and they had some right to expect that this manifesto-conscious government would cut the cackle and do what its manifesto said it would do. It would do about Ulster, namely "seek to establish one or more regional councils with a wide range of powers over local services". That may have seemed good enough grounds for trying to spike the devolution conference; but having failed to stop it they would be better off inside than out.

The Unionists are divided on this question of tactics, and are in evident danger of being outmanoeuvred by Mr Paisley in a competition for the Protestant vote. They may think their best chance is still to stand back and wait for the conference to fail. But it may not altogether fail, and even if it does Mr Paisley

would not necessarily be eclipsed in the event. His last major failure cost him dear at the time. That was in May, 1977, when he called for a general strike in association with Protestant paramilitaries and the strike fizzled out. But that time the Unionist Party profited from standing by more moderate and cooperative policies than he. This time they have occupied ground where they appear the harder and more uncompromising men. There is no harvest of votes for them to reap on that flank of their opponent.

Moreover, the present Ulster Unionist Party is the legate of the party which governed the province for fifty years hand in glove with Westminster, a party accustomed to invoking the principles of constitutionalism and democratic politics. It is incongruous that they alone among those invited should persist in declining to cooperate with the Secretary of State in inter-party talks about the province's institutions.

Destroying Islamic holy places, and attacking Christian holy places, including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. In addition Mr Hassan accused Israel of trying to practice sex in the El Aksa Mosque, and asked for explanations of financial agreements between Zionist leaders and Hider. Mr Hassan also advised the conference that a new state would help Jews to survive from the "fifty racism" of Zionism. Mr Qaddumi, concluded his remarks as the PLO Foreign Minister by requesting tactics

Zionists to join with the Arabs in demarcinating the state. May 1 point out that the only democratic state in the whole of the Middle East in particular and the Arab world in general is Israel. The Lebanon could once have been similarly described, but whatever democracy flourished there has been destroyed by the Palestinians. Yours faithfully, S. COWAN, The Colonades, 82, Bishop's Bridge Road, Bayswater, W2.

British Steel closures

From Professor A. H. Thornton

Sir, Last week I had occasion to spend two days at British Steel's Llanwern plant on matters which have nothing to do with the point of this letter. I write simply as one of millions of taxpayers, part of whose contributions go to British Steel, to say that I am willing to go on paying these contributions (and more if necessary) in order to preserve the integrity of the Llanwern plant. I am an Englishman not a Welshman, so my view is uncoloured by nationalistic sentiment. I can best summarise my reasons for saying this by reference to four factors:

a) *The social factor.* The Llanwern plant employs something like 9,500 people, and dependent upon it are many thousands more employed in coal, in supply industries of various kinds and in commerce. We are not talking only about an integrated steel plant, we are talking about an integrated and long-established community.

It is no exaggeration to say that the closure of the whole or a substantial part of the Llanwern plant will destroy that community and will destroy many of the people of whom it is composed.

b) *The skill factor.* Nobody could remain unimpressed by the vast course of skills which have come together to run the Llanwern plant. These skills are of immense variety: manual, technical (the control room of No. 3 blast-furnace looks exactly like the flight deck of a science-fiction space ship); managerial.

If this concourse of skills is dispersed by closure it could be lost to our industrial effort for all time.

c) *The capital factor.* The Llanwern plant is three and a half miles long. The immensity of its capital installations has to be seen to be believed. There is no way in which this capital investment can be made again if the present plant is allowed to become derelict. American forecasts tell us that there may well be an upsurge of demand for steel in the mid-eighties. We shall be far too poor ever to take advantage of this if the capital investment at Llanwern is allowed to lapse.

d) *The attitude factor.* It is a very long time since I have observed and talked to workers who spoke of pride in their work and behaved in accordance with their spoken words. Clearly there will have to be a demanding exercise at Llanwern, but my impression was that the central concern of the workers was to preserve the integrity of the plant, and, in this context, demanding should not present the same difficulty as it might if the future of the plant were not at issue.

For all these reasons, I would plead with the corporation not to close the whole, nor a significant part, of the Llanwern plant and I will be happy to pay the necessary extra tax because I know that such a decision would be right from the social, human and industrial points of view. I am, Sir, yours faithfully, A. H. THORNTON, Chapel Cottage, Louth, Lincolnshire, December 12.

Soviet ban on Hebrew

From Mrs Helen Smith

Sir, In a recent article (November 23) Michael Binyon quotes Professor Y. Belichikov as saying that a language offers a means of personal communication. He is speaking about the Russian language, but it is equally true for all other languages and it is a pity that the Soviet authorities do not honour their obligation under the Helsinki Agreement and allow their citizens to learn whatever language they please.

Soviet Jews are unable to import Hebrew books and the language is not recognised within the USSR. Teachers of Hebrew cannot obtain the official registration needed by private tutors in the Soviet Union and are therefore open for prosecution as "parasites". Josef Begun is suffering in Siberia now for this very reason. Soviet Jews normally speak the Russian language as their mother tongue, but the authorities' refusal to allow them to learn Hebrew is a denial of a basic human right.

As Michael Binyon pointed out, every nationality within the USSR has its own tongue and its own cultural heritage. Only the Jews are prevented from educating their children in the culture of their ancestors.

Yours truly, HELEN SMITH, 17 College Road, Bromley, Kent, December 17.

Churches and VAT

From Mr W. J. Cotterell

Sir, Why stop at repairs to churches? The whole concept of rating new buildings whilst taxing repairs to older ones is illogical. One of the arguments used in favour of replacing purchase tax by VAT is that it would remove the glaring anomalies which existed in the application of that tax. Yet I am informed that if you fit double glazing it is zero rated, presumably because it is new, whilst if you repair the existing windows you pay VAT. How ludicrous can one be?

VAT should be removed from all building work, new and repairing alike. Yours faithfully, W. J. COTTERELL, 3 Hillgrove Crescent, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, December 7.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Changing the writ of summons

From Mr R. E. Ball

Sir, May I be allowed to comment on Mr Weir's criticisms, in your issue of today (December 14), of the secrecy with which an important constitutional change has been effected?

The working party to which he refers was set up as a small body of technicians without facilities for wide publicity, so our report was intended merely to be a working paper preparatory to discussion. Nevertheless I was so appalled at the proposal to abolish the Royal Writ of Summons that I thought it my duty to test the climate of opinion, so far as I could. Over many months, I talked about the proposal to very many people, judges, barristers, solicitors, law clerks and those outside the legal profession.

I found a very strong and nearly unanimous revulsion against the proposal and summarised my findings in my dissenting report. This, I am told, though never officially informed, was promptly classified as confidential. Some at least were denied access to it and discussion was impeded.

When the Lord Chancellor took it upon himself to persuade the Rules Committee to reverse its decision of last year to retain the Royal Writ of Summons, I can only think in the capacity of "leader of the opposition", and asked to keep the matter reasonably confidential pending the clearance of a particular point. I am not unreasonably interpreted this as a command to enter an appearance in form at the Courts or accede to the plaintiff's demands.

The idea of the Queen as the dispenser of justice gives teeth to our system, and an ideal to our minds. The Courts are the Queen's courts; her coat of arms is generally placed over a judge in court. The Queen's Bench Division of the courts carries her name and Queen's Counsel her name. The Queen's officers have always sealed writs in her name, and yet some lawless committee intent on achieving the facelessness of the courts and the legal system has decided that such an "anachronism" must go.

This is a matter of principle but the principle is important: another sort of rust has started to eat into and undermine an effective and tried system and must be resisted by all who care for our society and state as it should be and who wish her Majesty the Queen to remain the fountain of justice. Yours faithfully, PETER M. LAVERICK, 23 Warwick Street, Worthing, Sussex, December 13.

Future of Gibraltar

From Major Robert Peliza

Sir, Your correspondent, Harry Debelius reporting on Señor Fraga Iribarne's visit to La Linea (December 10) quotes him as having said that "it is in the true interest of the Gibraltarians for them to ask the Gibraltarians to negotiate with Spain".

Señor Fraga Iribarne is living in a political cloud of his own if he genuinely believes that it is likely that the British Gibraltarians have been persuaded by the savage restrictions imposed by General Franco and now continued by Señor Suárez to press Her Majesty's Government to negotiate their legitimate British rights in exchange for the lifting of the inhuman blockade.

The views of the Gibraltarians coincide with those of Sir Ian Gilmour, the Minister of State responsible for Gibraltar; that "the restrictions are wrong in themselves" and that it is "unthinkable" that Spain could join the EEC and not abide by the fundamental principle of freedom of movement between territories of member states.

Control of local spending

From Professor John Small and Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, Recent statements by some local authority leaders seem to suggest that they are not fully aware of the serious economic peril facing the country. It is natural that they should want to maintain and improve the services which they provide for their communities. Unfortunately, the present situation (deriving largely from international economic conditions) imposes strict limits on what is possible.

It is also true that there is grave public concern in some parts of the country as to the quality of budgetary control of local spending, particularly with regard to overmanning. Authorities vary considerably in their efficiency. Admittedly, different authorities face different problems, but this should not preclude comparisons of efficiency in the use of manpower in a number of common services.

We would like to restate the suggestion which was made to the Layfield Committee that a parallel field committee should be appointed to monitor local authority spending, with powers to send for councillors, local officials, rate-

technical changes in the Rules of Court—opinions may well differ on that—but it is certainly not a proper body for bringing in drastic changes in our constitutional foundations in the guise of procedural modernization.

Yours faithfully, R. E. BALL, The Athenaeum, Pall Mall, SW1, December 14.

From Mr Peter M. Laverick
Sir, It has happened again. A committee of the Supreme Court Rules Committee (whichever they may be) have changed the form of High Court Writ of summons that has been developed over 800 years. If Parliament do not reject the change, the traditional Writ will look as cheap and effective as a debt collector's formal demand.

The committee have changed it by eliminating all reference to her Majesty the Queen other than by a royal coat of arms at the head of the paper in the manner of official stationery. They have taken away the stature and authority of an imposing and demanding document which, by its very wording, let alone its content, gave significance and impact to the recipient who was commanded to enter an appearance in form at the Courts or accede to the plaintiff's demands.

The idea of the Queen as the dispenser of justice gives teeth to our system, and an ideal to our minds. The Courts are the Queen's courts; her coat of arms is generally placed over a judge in court. The Queen's Bench Division of the courts carries her name and Queen's Counsel her name. The Queen's officers have always sealed writs in her name, and yet some lawless committee intent on achieving the facelessness of the courts and the legal system has decided that such an "anachronism" must go.

This is a matter of principle but the principle is important: another sort of rust has started to eat into and undermine an effective and tried system and must be resisted by all who care for our society and state as it should be and who wish her Majesty the Queen to remain the fountain of justice. Yours faithfully, PETER M. LAVERICK, 23 Warwick Street, Worthing, Sussex, December 13.

In fact the position of the vast majority of the inhabitants today is stronger than ever in their determination to preserve their British Gibraltarian rights.

What worries them is the apparent political instability of Spain and a feeling that there are insufficient safeguards with regard to security, immigration, investment and employment to protect the small community, if and when the frontier re-opens, from being usurped; and the friendly alien workers, who enable the public services and Her Majesty's Dockyard to function normally and the economy to prosper notwithstanding 15 years of restrictions and blockade, not being similarly protected.

There is a General Election in the offing and there is little doubt in anybody's mind that only those candidates who stand firmly by the wishes of the people to remain British in a British Gibraltar will be elected, as it has always been the case.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT J. PELIZA, Member of the House of Assembly, Gibraltar, December 10.

payers and independent experts and for relevant papers and documents. It would enable the public to judge those authorities which deserve praise for their efficiency and those which could benefit from the example of others.

By bringing local thinking and expertise into continuing contact with parliamentary concern and authority, it could also inform local authorities in considerably greater depth as to the nature and magnitude of the central economic problems facing the country as a whole. We should emphasize that this is not a party issue. A responsible government must face up to the need to bring local spending into line with overall economic strategy. A select committee is only one of a number of methods of achieving this, but it could provide a forum of mutual benefit to central and local government.

Yours faithfully, JOHN SMALL, Department of Accountancy and Finance, ALAN THOMPSON, Department of Economics, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, December 14.

ture", a percentage on the cost of the works which they initiate. This is not a very good way of controlling expenditure but it would be a purely French matter and of no concern to us if we could also be sure that we were not paying this particular piper.

Perhaps we, too, should play the rules for example by putting a hard surface on every footpath in the country and paying 10 per cent to the planning officers for their permission. A more serious question, though, is what control, if indeed any, the net-contributing countries can exercise on the free-spending habits of the receiving countries. Yours faithfully, JOHN BRADDOCK, 3 South Street, Wilton, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

The last goodbye

From Squadron Leader M. A. Locke

Sir, This year we have sent all our friends a seasonal stamp—with a card enclosed! Yours faithfully, MARTIN LOCKE, 24 Laurel Close, North Warnborough, Hampshire.

Causes of improve productivity

From Lord Walston

Sir, In your leading article of December 8, subtitled "On the Secondary Bill, you refer to lamentably low productivity of British industry compared with that of West Germany, the USA and France. You suggest that the absence of a code of law and free market in labour in the USA is to a large measure responsible for this.

Earlier in the article you write that, in addition to other assets, the USA has a highly efficient "agriculture". Yet this major industry, whose productivity compares very favourably with that of other countries in the other countries mentioned, operates under precisely the same labour conditions as our other industries. It would appear, therefore, that we must look elsewhere than to our trade union structure for an improvement in productivity.

A study of management practice and labour relations in agriculture and other industries with good records and those of our less successful industries, would surely be more useful than comparing with industry as a whole in other countries. I suspect that two of the main factors accounting for good performance of our industries would be found to be close and constant contact between labour and management; and the involvement of labour in the decision of the final product. The man who tightens the bolts on a car assembly line has little if any interest in the good performance of the vehicle that eventually leaves the factory; the developing world, and drills watches the crop as grows and sees and takes pride in the eventual harvest.

Yours truly, WALSTON, House of Lords.

Fees to overseas students

From Professor D. W. Brocklesby

Sir, The whole problem of fees for overseas students could be over come if the Government would consider the need for discrimination. It is not the policy of the the aid programme should continue and there is no doubt that education is the most efficient way of directing towards the poor countries the developing world; it is the rich countries can pay their way and buy any technical or educational assistance that they require.

We should, therefore, firmly differentiate between overseas students from the "third world" and those from the rich countries. It is easy to do this by simply drawing the line across the list of countries arranged in order of decreasing wealth, and charging high fees from countries above the line and low fees to students from the poorer countries. To be fairer we should draw several lines across the list and impose a scale of fees so that students from the very rich countries would pay charged, say, £10,000 per annum and this down to students from the very poor countries who would pay a nominal amount. In this way we would not only ensure that students from the poor countries could attend our universities, but we would also be playing Robin Hood by making the rich subsidize the poor.

Yours faithfully, DAVID W. BROCKLESBY, Professor of Tropical Animal Health, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh.

Kennedy's Latin primer

From Professor A. R. Birley

Sir, Classical tags are seldom used by public men these days, and it is quite unattractive or pedantic to quibble when the man who is quoted, but none wonders when Mr Hugh Fraser (December 14) recalled the provenance of imperial copax, which he applies to a little harder, might have refrained from comparing a senator, by implication, with the ill-fated emperor Galba, *copax imperii, nisi imperasset*. In Tacitus' immortal enigma.

Quite aside from the unfortunate echoes of the "imperial" pronunciation evoked by the term, might point to the words which Tacitus picks in Galba's mouth in a speech delivered a few days before his assassination: under the Julio-Claudian dynasty the Romans have been treated as "the inheritance of a single family"—Galba had hoped to change that. However, recourse to Tacitus' biography might have produced a remark with which Mr Kennedy might agree: Galba used to say that no one should be held accountable for his spare time activities (*quod necesse rationem exquirere*). Yours faithfully, A. R. BIRLEY, Professor of Ancient History, University of Manchester.

Round sum

From the Reverend Patrick Horton

Sir, We shall all have to cut down presents this Christmas, but please be generous to the boy or girl who delivers our daily paper. These young people have to get up at 6.30, set out on their round home, change, have breakfast, and be at school, possibly by public transport, by 9 AM. And then do this whatever the weather, all the year round. I have, Sir, etc., PATRICK HORTON, 79 Brighton Road, Godalming, Surrey.

Dam bust

From Mr J. F. O. Switzer

Sir, Tornado hits. Yours faithfully, J. F. O. SWITZER, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, December 17.

Arabs and Israel

From Mr Sydney Cowan

Sir, Edward Mordimer's article on Israel and the Palestinians (December 10) refers to Mr Qaddumi and Mr al-Hassan as moderates seeking a peaceful solution of the Middle East problem. As the recent conference on Jerusalem held in London organized by the Arab "states" Israel was accused of burning the El Aksa Mosque in 1969, "Judaizing" the City of Jerusalem,

Fashion

by
Prudence Glynn

hat, right: By Bermona, and £10, buyable everywhere, the most important shape. The dress Elizabeth Chigoni rules gelling locks will not do.

tre: The ultimate Cinderella er dress. By David and Elizabeth Emanuel. David and Elizabeth are among this country's most gifted and dedicated ducts of our state training and have now opted to be only for private clients. Their address is 26a Brook Street, London W.1, tel. 01-629 0000. David and Elizabeth have issued Princess Michael of Kent and other lovelies and seem to get the wedding order for Hon. Victoria Marcroft when she weds her prince in February next year. Gold lamé strapless, huge black tulle skirt stole embroidered with stars and moons in gold and silver. order. I think you could get away without the wand, unless you are going to be anyone at a party you particularly dislike.



Just the thing for the muted orange. It is all very well being expected, my dear, which nightclothes are housewives in investment, but they are simply not practical. Something which should appeal to the Northerners is the lovely hand-knits from Diana Doe, Dodo House, 8 Monument Street, Peterborough, Cambs. PE1 2AQ, tel. 0733 67157. As they are, naughty nighties, but I'd sew up the side of the long one and wear it over a slip as an evening dress. Each built costs about £10 with p and p 25c and if you ring today they can be the Post Office, willing on the back of your loved one at Christmas.

need on the beach—as you plunge about off the coast of wherever.

Very fine delicate chains from Booty in Bond Street or Jones in Beauchamp Place. Charming gift copies from every department store in the country. The only other smart present is pearl stud earrings. Ciro to Carrier, but not more than three eights of an inch in diameter.

By the way, the answer on the chain should be circular and set around with metal, unless you are going to wear your heart on your chequebook and buy the sensational piece Harry Winston showed at the recent exhibition of great jewels at Asprey in Bond Street. I must admit to a penchant for the six and a half carat single stone on the platinum chain, just the length for no-one except the donor to be able to discover it at an approximate £60,000.

Perfume. What can I say when she knows what she loves and what you love her to wear? What I shall say is that a change is as good as a rest, to mix out and get her any of the new, lightweight, "natural" scents: roseolene, at healthy living and self-sufficiency. Perfumery Workshop produces essential oils which you can mix together; you can buy them at Selfridges, Ruchmans of Birmingham, or Barkers in Kensington.

The truly holy male will head for Penhaligon, Wellington Square, Covent Garden though because with scents becoming more unisex if you dial out a forum of Hamman Bouquet there is a sporting chance you can get to dab behind your own ears. Sophisticated women love to wear a masculine scent because not only is it delicious but it can create just the tiniest alarm that she is newly from the company of Apollo.

I almost forgot Scarves. My only for the last of your life, which case they (the scarves, not the men) should be long, narrow, woolly, fringed at the ends (you can now see why I am speaking of the scarves not the men) and they will wear them around their turned-up collars of their jackets. The pattern should be plain or plaid and the really dashing like their scarves, a foot wide and are using them as overcoats. This means that if we have a winter like the last you can put your scarves against them for next year, by which time you may have to be thinking about scarves for the old girl/housekeeper/daughter/girl groom/maiden aunt. Don't ask me.

Having only ever received one fashionable Christmas present, a parcel of dubious Bazaar from a lovelorn National Service Coldstreamer who I judge must have been stationed in the Casbah, this writer has maintained a certain cynicism about such gifts and a certain reluctance to advise on the page. How wrong.

In London there may be a town confidence or a certain discretion in asking advice. Who is it for they may be thinking that you are thinking as they sound you out on the price of Janet Rager French knicks as opposed to Dorothy Perkins or Miss Selfridge ditty and you have just caught sight of the only legitimate object of their donation and she looks much more suited to some woolly comb.

Down in the country things are different. If you are the fashion editor of The Times you jolly well ought to know what to give the old girl/daughter/housekeeper/girl groom/maiden aunt, and be specific about it, too. No point in struggling round that ghastly West End with taxis the price they are. So here goes.

Definitely not green tights. There are a lot of these around and they are to be left to Peter Pan and small boys enacting Robin Hood in which case it is perfectly all right for them to look as though their legs had been struck by some lichenous blight and for the crotch section to be somewhere just above the knee.

Also avoid those dreadful tights with dots or splashes of pattern. They make the wearer seem to have bubonic plague. Funny patterns up the outside of the leg can be vulgar (when will a clever manufacturer bring back those darling little "docks" just up to the ankle which drove Edwardians wild?) but seams up the back, provided the lady can be guaranteed to get them on straight, are very in. Elbow have finally produced a range of support tights in smart colours, very sheer, very chic and currently being snatched off the counters by the most beautiful model girls.

Hats. They are very pretty and very smart now, but only for a woman who is prepared to make-up and scold her hair to complete the effect. Tiny bowlers, shallow-crowned felts with a veil—very fashionable all that business of raising it and not getting it stuck into the cigarette, canapé or dry martini like some sort of sieve. Colours should be black, white, or scarlet. Best hat departments, Peter Robinson, Fenwicks, Harrods.

Gloves. These should be woolly, appear to be hand-made even if not, and have a Fair Isle pattern across the knuckles. Mittens are very smart, too, and can be bought everywhere at every price. Town ladies like them because all that scrabbling in the purse makes holes in the gloves—if you give gloves, move into the haberdashery department and top up with a card of darling wool—and country ladies like them be-

cause it is so much easier to fence the throat latch. Dress. Don't. No, unless you are very sure. Giffers! In the ring just now and again you can buy it at any price. I recommend a sweater either decorated with a few stars, or made entirely in Lurex. The very young may be given sequinned boob-tubes which are what we used to call strapless bodices, in gold, silver or black. Actually the not-so-young can be given boob-tubes in black to be worn with black velvet trousers and a blazer. Top end of the glitter market is Marcel Fanez shop at 26 Brook Street, London W1 with stunning sequinned jackets and whole dresses reminiscent of Hurrell or Norman Norrell.

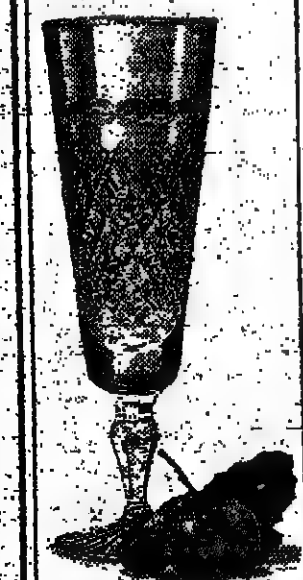
Boots. Since they cost a lot, boots, please, but watch out. On no account give the ones which come to just below the knee because skirts are going to get shorter and the one crime in fashion now is a top writer the two. Go for mid-calf, Texas-style boots with a thick heel, or much better, for bottines, little ankle boots with a delicious cuff around the ankle and mighty high heels. By the way do not despise the bedroom slipper. They should be with a 1½ inch heel, velvet, in claret or black, made by Gannex and handily suitable for the bonnet, putting out the dustbins, or going to the opera in a long frock.

Jewelry. Never before has this been less a status item and so much a fashionable one. I suppose the change derives in part from the tremendous cost of insurance and from the very natural dislike of being banged on the head for one's engagement ring, but there is a much more subtle explanation. With increasing confidence in the individual jewelry has become more private. This goes for men and women. Some time ago I wrote about the change in society which would render the far whorls of the fin de siècle not admired but ludicrous for all their diamonds. So much more sexy is the finest gold or platinum chain with just one or two stones worn inside the silk shirt.

Again, they come at every price. Wonderful barbaric gold from Gerard in Grafton Street, W.1, and do not be too dismissive of gold: it has the advantage that you never ever have to take it off and it is useful for supporting your car-keys—all you



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Wines more beautiful than

Stock Exchange

Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Dec 27. 5 Contango Day; Dec 2

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Dec 10. Dealings End, Dec 27. \$ Confango Day, Dec 28. Settlement Day, Jan 7

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

Ren
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STIR
energy
station
and
speed

PRICE

SALE

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

LAING
make ideas take shape

great
h-wire
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page 19

Stock markets
FT 100 423.3 down 7.7
FT 100 65.28 down 0.12

Sterling
\$2.1985 down 10 points
Index 69.7 down 0.1

Dollar
Index 85.3 down 0.5

Gold
\$470 an ounce up \$13

3-month money
Inter-bank 16 13/16 to 15 15/16
Euro \$14 13/16 to 15 15/16

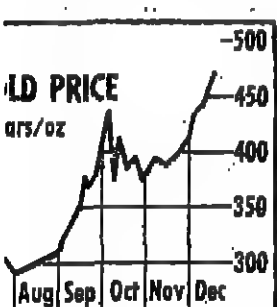
IN BRIEF

5m energy conservation grants may be scrapped

Government looks set to scrap the £25m grant scheme for energy conservation in industry when the plan comes for renewal next June, officials have said. The scheme, which has been in operation since 1976, has been criticised by the Department of Industry, and as these are expected to be the last year of the scheme, it is unlikely that it will be continued, and Whitehall sources maintain it will definitely be scrapped.

Wester in sugar talks

Lord Jellicoe, chairman of the British Sugar Corporation, and Mr Peter C. Lyle, Secretary of State for Agriculture, yesterday pressed the case for a 25 per cent increase in the price of sugar to the European Commission. British sugarbeet growers, who are also growers of other crops, are seeking a 50 per cent increase in the price of sugar.



Price of gold came a little lower to close at \$470 an ounce in London yesterday, up from Friday. Silver also set a record closing price of \$100.

Canoe setback

Workers fighting to save the pool's doomed Meccano factory yesterday made offers on redundancy pay to secure a holiday wage.

C wins \$5m order

C High Voltage Switchgear of Trafford Park, Manchester, has won a \$5m order from the United States for 25 trackside substations.

£35m deal

British National Airlines, the national airline of the United Kingdom, has placed an order for Lockheed TriStar airliners from Lockheed Aircraft Corporation. The order is worth more than £35m to Lockheed.

Tile deadlock

Disputes between the European Commission and Greece over the level of textile imports from Greece are deadlocked. The Commission is insisting that the level of imports be reduced when it meets in Brussels.

Oil St caution

Down Jones industrial average rose two points to 52, an oil price caution. The price was higher, at \$470.00.

Renault could bid for British Leyland if state funding dries up

By Clifford Webb
Midland Industrial Correspondent

Renault, the state-owned French motor group, is emerging as a possible buyer for British Leyland if the Government refuses to continue funding the last British-owned representative in the international motor industry.

Already the largest industrial group in France, Renault is riding high at present. Tomorrow, in Geneva, it is expected to announce a deal with Volvo which calls for a direct French stake in the Swedish motor group.

A Renault takeover of BL would leave the French holding more than half the car and commercial vehicle manufacturing capacity in this country. Renault's takeover of BL would leave the French holding more than half the car and commercial vehicle manufacturing capacity in this country.

There is no news of an official approach to the British Government but informal moves are reported by reliable sources. Two senior executives of British components companies believe they have been "used" by Renault to report the French company's interest in BL to the Department of Industry.

One of them said: "It would be incorrect to say that Renault made an offer to the Government using people like myself as intermediaries. But certainly I have reported the result of conversations with Renault people which indicates their interest as a possible purchaser."

In Paris yesterday a French motor industry director (not Renault) said: "Renault are so full of themselves at the moment that they probably believe that they can take over anything. The deal with Volvo and, before that, the decision to buy a big share of American Motors, indicate their intention to be a worldwide power able to take on the Americans and the Japanese."

Relations between Renault and BL are reported to be very strained after the breakdown of talks which have dragged on for well over two years. They began formally when a joint working party was established in June, 1977 (before Sir Michael Edwards joined BL as chairman) to examine areas for technical collaboration.

Both sides have denied that these talks were in any way connected with a possible merger. Since then, there have been recurring reports of clashes between BL executives and at least one senior Renault man.

The chief cause of the present breakdown was the surprise deal between BL and Honda for the British company to assemble a new Honda car in this country and market it throughout the EEC.

Renault is known to have offered BL a similar new car deal more than 18 months ago but it was rejected because—unlike the Japanese deal—too many concessions were demanded in return.

Renault executives have complained bitterly that they regard BL's action as "selling the European pass to the Japanese". But the real cause of the breakdown is believed to be the way Sir Michael Edwards pulled off the Honda deal without the French picking up a whisper.

On the other hand, Sir Michael Edwards is understood to have been just as upset by Renault's decision, announced two months ago, to invest £75m in American Motors and give guarantees covering another £25m.

In return Renault will use AMC's factories in Kenosha, Wisconsin, to manufacture cars for the American market.

He has also complained about the aggressive tactics Renault has adopted to persuade BL dealers to change sides. This includes extensive winning and dining trips to France.

The Government's reply to BL's request for another £25m worth of state aid aimed at securing the deal was that it was not possible to do so because of the union-management negotiations, now in their final stages.

Sir Michael wants to remove interventionist demarcation boundaries that have played the whole of the motor industry for the past 30 years.

Dutch approval needed: A Dutch Economics Ministry spokesman said last night that his Government's agreement would be needed for any deal between Volvo and Renault.

Marsh & McLennan calls for takeover talks with Bowring after apparent collapse of premium pooling plan

By Richard Allen
Insurance Correspondent

Marsh & McLennan of the United States, the world's biggest insurance broker group, are considering a takeover bid for C. T. Bowring, the second largest broker firm in the United Kingdom whose interests also include the Singer & Friedlander merchant bank and the Bowmaker credit finance group.

In a surprise move yesterday Bowring's shares were suspended before Marsh announced that it was calling for discussions with Bowring with a view to obtaining an agreement on a takeover. Bowring, however, hinted strongly that a bid will be opposed.

Bowring said Marsh have for the past 18 months been locked

in discussions over a plan for a premium pooling arrangement. This plan, which would have involved pooling revenues of both groups, being placed in a "transatlantic" pool before being shared between the two groups, has apparently collapsed.

At the suspension price of 109p yesterday, Bowring is capitalised at £150m. However, stockbrokers were guessing last night that, to be successful, an offer from Marsh would have to be worth at least £2 a share or £218m.

If successful, the takeover would almost certainly involve Marsh in having to divest itself of 75 per cent of Bowring's

broking interests if it wished to retain the group's status as a Lloyd's accredited firm.

Although both groups were playing down suggestions that a significant rift had emerged between them following failure of the premium pooling plans, Bowring has hinted clearly that it finds the takeover move particularly unwelcome.

In a statement last night it said: "Directors of Bowring regret that, in view of the long association between the two businesses, Marsh McLennan have chosen to make a unilateral announcement of their intention to consider an offer for the whole of the share capital and convertible loan stocks of Bowring."

It added: "If and when any offer is received, it will be examined by the directors."

The bid move is bound to cause further disturbance in existing relationships between United States broker groups and their leading United Kingdom counterparts. When Marsh and Bowring began discussing premium pooling last year, the announcement triggered off similar arrangements among other groups and was believed to be partly responsible for the merger of Sedgwick Forbes and Bland Payne, two of Britain's biggest broker firms.

At the centre of this turmoil is the Lloyd's insurance market, which relies on American firms for half its premium business of around £2,000m a year but which insists on dealing directly only with United Kingdom accredited firms.

Thus, to send business to

Lloyd's, the American groups have to pass it to a British group and split the broking commission. In an attempt to get closer to the Lloyd's market, Marsh planned a bid two years ago for Wigham Poland but this was thwarted by a Lloyd's rule that overseas companies could not hold more than between 20 and 25 per cent of a Lloyd's broker's total equity.

Mr Jack Regan, Marsh & McLennan's president, said last night that any move with regard to the takeover would have to be approved by Lloyd's. He agreed that this would probably involve Marsh divesting itself of 75 per cent of the broking interests.

Financial Editor, page 19

Imperial moves into US fast-food chain with 4 votes to spare

By Rosemary Unsworth

Imperial Group, the British tobacco, drinks and food conglomerate, yesterday voted in favour of the proposed £28m (£60m) takeover bid for the Howard Johnson hotel and restaurant chain in the United States.

But voting was close at the extraordinary meeting in London, attended by more than 200 shareholders, with 103 votes approving the deal, a majority of four. However, the result was a foregone conclusion as Imperial had received almost 80 per cent of acceptances in proxy votes before the meeting.

Howard Johnson shareholders also approved the deal yesterday in Boston, Massachusetts.

Imperial's chairman, Sir John Pile, told the shareholders that the group's pre-tax profits were expected to be £5m better than last year's £131m.

He reminded shareholders that the acquisition would be subject to satisfactory arrangements being made with 40 separate liquor licensing authorities in the States in which Howard Johnson operates so that the business can continue to sell liquor after the takeover. So far agreement has been reached with 27 authorities.

Discussions with the rest are continuing but Imperial's lawyers believe there will be a satisfactory outcome.

In response to shareholders' questions about the programme which deal, which gives Howard Johnson shareholders \$28 a share compared with the market price of around \$16 before the bid, Sir John pointed out that Howard Johnson's



Sir John Pile: pre-tax profits expected to be £5m up.

fixed assets will be revalued when the acquisition is complete. This revaluation is expected to show a \$200m surplus over book value and will reduce the cost of purchasing the \$28m good will in Howard Johnson.

He stressed that Howard Johnson's profits should show an improvement at the year end over last year, despite a third quarter setback because of oil shortages in the United States. Last year Howard Johnson made profits of \$33.6m.

"There has been a healthy growth in profits over the years despite a sizable reduction in the programme which has meant that various properties have been out of use for weeks on end with a consequent loss of profit and no substantial reduction in cost," Sir John told shareholders.

£53m half-year loss for British Shipbuilders

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Losses of £53 million for the first half of the present financial year were announced yesterday by British Shipbuilders.

In a brief statement the shipbuilding corporation said it believed that its trading loss for the full year ending next March would be within the £100 million limit set by the Government this summer.

The first half loss was struck on a turnover of £423 million for the period and against the background of increasing pressure on the state corporation to carry through further financial belt-tightening in order to remain within the Government set limits.

British Shipbuilders, which was formed 21 years ago, is attempting to streamline the organization and improve levels of efficiency when the world market for new ships is diminishing and where competition is intense.

The corporation has set a target of 45 new orders in the current year, and so far has secured firm orders for about half that number. The need for orders is vital if the corporation is to provide a sufficient base

work load for those yards which have been identified as having a future.

At the end of September, its merchant order book consisted of 75 ships totalling about 685,000 tons gross, which is about half the traditional annual output of the United Kingdom industry. At the end of September last year the order book involved over 100 ships totalling 1,100,000 tons gross.

It will be at least another two years before demand for merchant ships returns to reasonably substantial levels, and the corporation has been forced to transfer a large part of its labour force to construction of naval ships, which increasingly will form the basis of orders for the yards.

Meanwhile, redundancies continue. Since the beginning of April over 2,200 workers left the industry, pushing the total since nationalization to just over 10,000.

In the past two weeks, the corporation has secured a number of new orders including two bulk carriers for Govan Shipbuilders and a total of nine new orders for Austin & Pickersgill, the corporation's Wearside subsidiary. All of the orders are being subsidized from the Government's shipbuilding intervention fund.

Uncertain Future, Page 19

N Sea producers set to follow Opec lead

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

British North Sea oil producers are poised to follow whatever price increases are set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) in Caracas, Venezuela.

The new prices for North Sea oil are likely to go up by at least 15 per cent in line with the increases already announced by Libya earlier this week.

The Government has requested the state-owned British National Oil Corporation, the main North Sea price setter, to hold down prices as long as possible. It believes that the damage caused to industry and the boost to inflation, which it estimates will go up by 1.5 per cent for every 10 per cent increase in oil prices, far outweighs any gain in exporting oil at higher prices.

But Opec is unlikely to be able to hold the price increases beyond January 1, the next date when term contracts make provision for a price change. The increase is likely to provoke more protests from EEC countries such as Denmark and Germany which criticized Britain at the Dublin summit for not doing more to hold down prices.

The British Government's powers to control either the price or the supply of North

Sea oil are extremely limited. Under the terms of option arrangements with North Sea producers, ENOC has to pay market prices for the oil it buys.

In any event, any artificial depression in Britain's North Sea prices would merely open the way to a third party making a profit by reselling supplies on the open market. At present only about 1 per cent of North Sea crude oil is trading at spot values (which are well above the contract prices). But this proportion could rapidly increase.

The Government equally maintains that it cannot influence prices by boosting supplies because the producers are already operating to capacity to recover their initial investment as quickly as possible.

North Sea oil, which is of a price closely linked to those of African producers, including Algeria and Nigeria as well as Libya. Prices of North Sea oil last went up in November from the old ceiling of \$23.50 to just over \$26 a barrel. \$25 Imperial gallons) in line with the African producers.

The latest increase announced by Libya and which other African producers are likely to follow is for \$30 a barrel.

170,000 get BSC's bonus terms

By Our Industrial Editor

British Steel Corporation executives were making a last-ditch attempt last night to head off the threatened national strike by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation from January 2.

Mr Robert Scholey, chief executive of BSC, and Dr David Greaves, managing director—personnel, travelled to Luxembourg last night for a routine meeting of the European Coal and Steel Community Consultative Committee. Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the ITC, is also attending the meeting.

Mr Scholey said the opportunity would be taken to try to discuss the proposed lump sum bonus scheme which could produce increases of up to 10 per cent from improved productivity at local level.

The move coincided with a strong attack by the Steel

Industry Management Association on the corporation's plans to axe 52,000 jobs by next August and an admission by Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, that the proposed closure of the Consett steelworks was the most worrying of the closures.

Yesterday BSC handed out a four-page bulletin to more than 170,000 employees. It gave details of the lump sum bonus scheme.

The distribution of the bulletin was designed to get the corporation's offer across to rank and file members although Mr Scholey denied that the BSC was going over the heads of union leaders.

Mr Scholey said: "We feel our ideas on pay have not been put across as adequately as they could have been. We feel the ITC's precipitate response to our proposal has denied us the chance to get into discussions on detailed schemes."

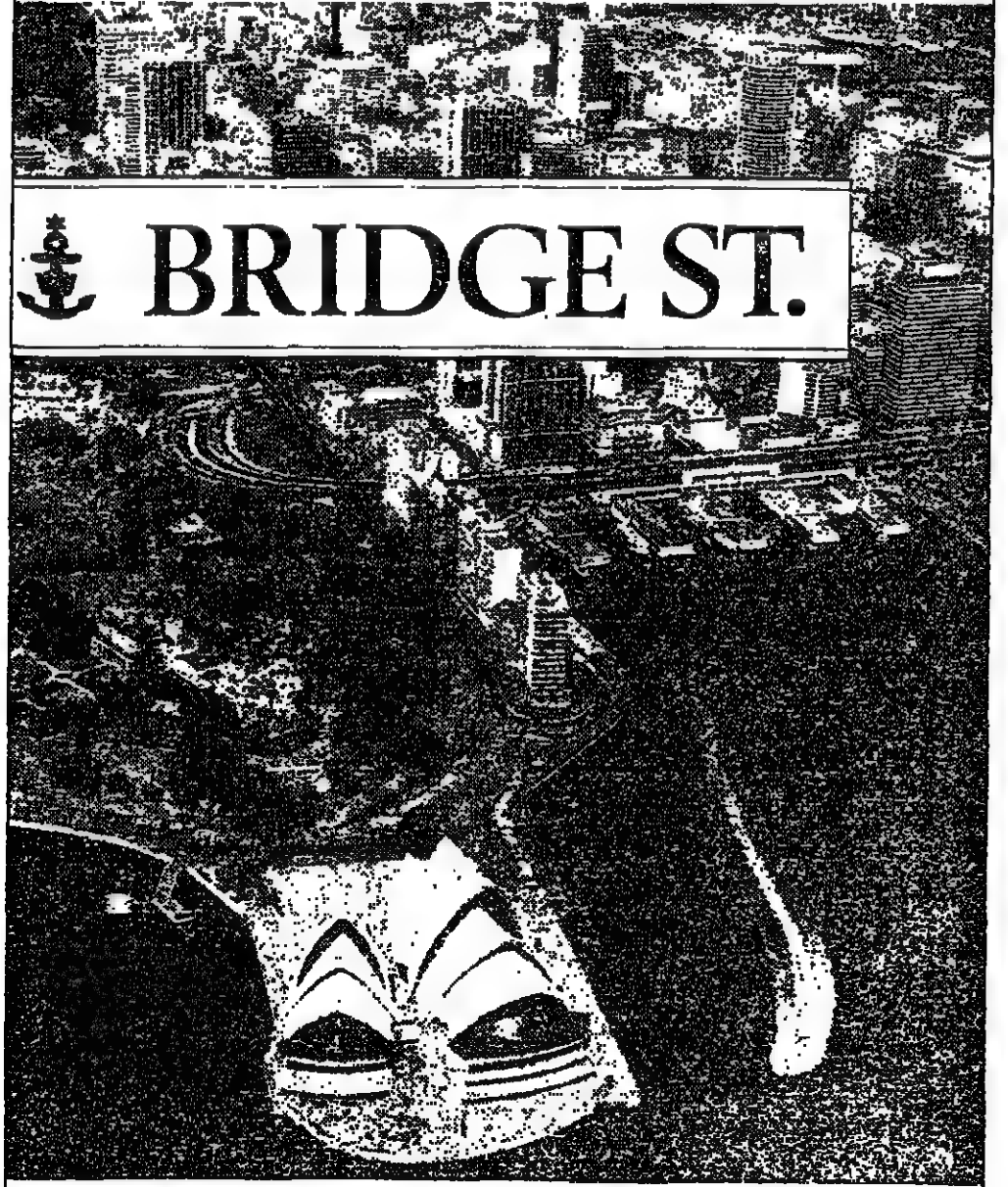
He explained that the opportunity for detailed discussions with the ITC had been prevented by the ITC's decision, after the Corby closure was announced, to break off all direct consultations with the BSC except on safety.

He stressed that BSC would not be prepared to increase the existing 2 per cent national offer. BSC executives still do not regard the strike as inevitable although the BSC will shut for Christmas at the end of this week; the ITC executive will meet tomorrow.

The Steel Industry Management Association (SIMA), which represents senior and middle BSC managers, sent a detailed statement on BSC's cuts to Sir Keith Joseph, steel constituency MPs and the TUC.

It said that the corporation ought to move towards overall profitability and that hiving off profitable business from the BSC would be unreasonable.

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THE POUND

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Warning on growth of Bonn deficit

West Germany's Federal Bank has given a warning that the national balance of payments deficit on current account is likely to grow still further next year from the 8,000m mark (about £2,111m) level expected for 1979.

In its latest monthly report the bank said the change in the structure of Germany's current account balance of payments to considerable deficit for the first time in 14 years was not just a short term phenomenon.

The dramatic shift of around 26,000m marks from last year's surplus of some 18,000m marks in this year's deficit meant that West Germany must once again be in a position to increase its exports. Accordingly the German central bank appealed to both sides of industry to reach moderate wage settlements in the forthcoming round of collective wage bargaining.

Collusion case ends

West Germany's Federal Cartel Office says it has dropped collusion proceedings against Dresdner Bank AG, Deutsche Bank AG and Commerzbank AG for simultaneous raising of interest rates. It said intensive hearings supported the bank's claim of innocence.

Oil tenders invited

Ecuador has invited tenders from multinational oil companies for exploration of 10 million hectares as part of a drive to increase dwindling oil reserves. A total of 125 wells are planned in the next five years at a cost of \$1,000m (about £457m) with finance raised in domestic and international markets.

\$5.353m Moscow deal

Armco, the Ohio-based industrial and steel manufacturer, has negotiated a \$5,353m (£2,444m) equipment contract for the Novolipetsk electrical steel plant south of Moscow. Armco is working in association with Nippon Steel of Japan.

Toyota export record

Toyota's vehicle exports in November were a monthly record of 138,100, up 3.7 per cent from 125,900 in October and up 51.9 per cent from 90,900 a year earlier.

Fed chairman meets Mrs Thatcher amid interest rates uncertainty

From Frank Vogel
United States Economics Correspondent
Washington, Dec 17

The Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, found half an hour in her tight schedule of official meetings today to see Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board. United States money market traders would dearly have liked to take part in this tête-à-tête with the outlook for interest rates now desperately uncertain.

Mr Volcker has cancelled tomorrow's meeting of the Fed's open market policy committee without explanation and some dealers interpret this as meaning no change is likely in Fed policy before the committee convenes on January 9. But some dealers suggest that pressure is being built that could force the Fed to move to a tighter policy stance.

The confusion rests partly upon lack of experience with the Fed's approach to monetary policy. In the old days the prime credit easing and tightening tool used was the rate for federal funds. This changed on October 6 when the Fed said

it would operate with targets for bank reserves playing a much bigger role than target interest rates.

The Fed clearly has specific ideas on the relationship between bank reserves growth and money supply growth and some clear targets for bank reserves growth, although it has not announced these targets.

It is aiming for an annual M1 growth rate of between 3 to 6 per cent and latest data suggest it is right on target. The four-week moving averages show that M1 has increased in the last 13 weeks at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 4.1 per cent, with growth of 7.2 per cent for the last 26 weeks and 5.2 per cent for the last 52 weeks. These figures would not suggest any need for credit tightening.

However, the bank reserves aggregates have shown sharp rises recently and this has convinced some analysts that the Fed will tighten policies soon.

The four-week moving averages show a clear deterioration in the growth rate of total bank reserves, non-borrowed reserves and required reserves. The seasonally adjusted annual rate for total reserves was at 14.8 per cent for the last 13 weeks against 12.6 per cent for the last 26 weeks and 3.5 per cent for the last 52 weeks.

There are other reasons why some experts see rates moving back to higher levels. The pundits at the Commercial Credit Corporation of Baltimore say that "with inflation and inflationary expectations showing continued strength, the Opec oil cartel meeting today, and seasonal credit demands upon the money markets, there may be further increases in money market rates".

At Bankers Trust, staff economists reflect a widespread view in stating that "until there are more convincing signs that the economy is weakening and that inflation is finally turning the corner, it is unlikely that interest rates will move downward quickly".

Solomon Brothers suggests that the recent rise in bank reserves may soon lead to higher interest rates and it anticipates such heavy demands for new financing in the public and private sectors during 1980.

Small iron foundries in jeopardy, report says

By John Huxley

Small iron foundries are closing at such a rate that the local services they supply are now seriously threatened, according to a report published by an industry working party today.

The report says that small craft foundries are of crucial strategic importance to the economy. They provide a product on which the whole of the engineering industry depends, that is "the one-off or short production run casting vital for prototype development, for original equipment manufacture, for special purpose, custom-built machinery or for replacement parts where speed of response is vital".

Although an overall decline in demand for engineering castings is expected, and fewer foundries will be needed, the present rate of closure is too high, the working party has reported to the Foundries Economic Development Committee (Little Neddy).

The working party also found that small craft foundries had problems unlike those of other small companies and, therefore, required separate attention.

In particular, they suffered from extremely cyclical profitability, faced special environmental problems and had to make large investments relative to their turnover.

Frequently, they charged unrealistically low prices because of the inadequacy of costing methods. For these reasons, the small foundry sector had a record of poor profitability.

The working party believes that the Inland Revenue should introduce a capital loan scheme and extend the carry-back of tax rebates to help foundry owners cope with fluctuations in profitability.

It calls on the Department of Industry to develop specific industrial expertise in its small companies service and asks the Department of Trade to consider sympathetically the merits of a possible agreement to co-ordinate the date of foundry price increases.

The Department of the Environment, it suggests, should through its advice to local authorities on the interpretation of clean air legislation, encourage the introduction of "more reasonable" demands on small foundries.

Foundries can also do much to improve profitability and efficiency. The working party recommends especially that they concentrate on adding value to the castings they already sell, and do not rely on selling a greater volume of castings in the future.

Kenneth Owen
and Ronald Kershaw

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proposal on secretaries 'a restrictive practice'

From Mr Nicholas Baker, MP for North Dorset (Conservative)

Sir, You reported (December 13) a new clause in the Companies Bill proposed, by my colleague, Mr Graham Page MP, and carried in the committee stage, providing that all company secretaries of public companies must be professionally qualified in future.

As the only member of the committee who voted against this amendment, I would like to comment on this proposal. The first point is that the secretary of a public company is not central to the management of the company and I know of no examples of company secretaries through incompetence materially damaging either their company, or its shareholders or employees. Indeed, in many public companies, a registrar's department carries out many of the functions which in a private company are carried out by the secretary.

Secondly, the clause as adopted would prevent any

secretarial company, for example, a company formed by a clearing bank to provide this service, from being secretary of a public company in future. The only exception in the clause is that secretaries of existing public companies or persons who have been secretaries for three out of the previous five years of one public company (which would, of course, include a company) may act as secretary of another.

Thirdly, for some reason, certified accountants are excluded from the list of those permitted to perform this service; there are other contenders for the list of those suitably qualified.

This proposal, which will no doubt receive closer examination during the report stage of the Bill, will strike many as a statutory backing for a professional restrictive practice which in this case I do not believe to be necessary in the public interest.

NICHOLAS BAKER,
House of Commons,
London, SW1A 0AA.

East Enders demand a say in their future

From the Rev Robert J. Yeomans

Sir, I have every sympathy with Sir Kenneth Thompson, chairman of Manchester County Council, who, as reported (December 10), is describing the proposed establishment of a development corporation for Merseyside as "a monstrous dictatorship opposed to every concept of local democracy". I wonder if I could ask him, through the columns of your newspaper, to have a quiet word in the ear of the leader of the Greater London Council (Knight to Knight) declaring knowledge of Psalm 119: 9) and tell him that London's East Enders, like Merseysiders, are proud of their locality and demand a say in their future and that of their environment.

If created, the Development Corporation for London Docklands will deprive East Enders of such a say in the same way as the similar proposals for Merseyside will render powerless our fellow docklanders in the North.

Like Sir Kenneth I would say give our local councils the money and the power and let them get on with the job. I believe that they would get on with the creative task of developing our docklands instead of threatening to destroy the unique community of the Isle of Dogs with a six lane motorway or publishing dreams of a Utopian Olympic village at £10 per copy.

ROBERT J. YEOMANS,
Christ Church Vicarage,
Manchester Road,
Isle of Dogs
London, E14 9BN.

The ECC and Britain's oil

From Professor E. Haggard

Sir, Our EEC partners believe that it is not unreasonable to expect some subsidy on their natural assets such as agricultural products together with high taxation on food imported into the EEC. Equally it would seem reasonable that we should accede to their request to treat them with special status regarding our oil and gas sales. Our oil and gas is among the most difficult and expensive to extract in the world and should be charged at a considerably higher price than the rest of the EEC. At the same time external supplies of oil and gas imported into the EEC should be higher taxed.

Your faithfully,
EDMUND HAGGARD
School of Architecture and Building Engineering,
University of Bath,
Claverton Down,
Bath BA2 7AY.

Research bodies set new targets

The six research establishments of the Department of Industry aim to do much more work for industry, and in particular to increase the proportion that is aimed at results in five to 10 years' time, according to Dr Duncan Davies, the department's chief scientist and engineer.

Writing in a 1979 review of the establishments, published today, Dr Davies says: "It is a little disappointing that our industrial partnership work is now growing only slowly and, although it cannot increase indefinitely, we want to increase our penetration more sharply over the next year or two."

The six establishments are the National Physical Laboratory, National Engineering Laboratory, Warren Spring Laboratory, National Maritime Institute, Computer Aided Design Centre and the Laboratory of the Government Chemist. Their total funding for 1978-79 amounted to £29m, of which £4.3m came from industry and £2m from other government departments.

The proportion of the establishments' work "aimed at future capability in five to 10 years' time", says Dr Davies, is now considerably less than 10 years ago. "This preparatory work is, of course, crucial to our customers: it is our seed corn. We hope to get more of it paid for by them directly."

Government technologists in the United Kingdom initiated

radar, gas turbines, nuclear reactors and new agrochemical and pharmaceutical technology. Dr Davies points out. Now there are opportunities in marine technology, computer-aided en-

Technology News

gineering, microelectronic systems, engine management, materials and measurement (associated with quality control).

Electricity cuts cost of bottle making

Energy savings, cost savings, improved safety and an improved working environment generally have been achieved for a relatively modest investment by Rockware Glass of Knottingley, Yorkshire, by changing from gas-firing to electric heating for part of the company's bottle-making process.

Rockware has achieved no less than 85 per cent energy savings by the introduction of electric heating in the "forehearth" area. The new system is saving \$4,500 every four months and should pay for itself in two years.

It is perhaps paradoxical that heat is required to control a cooling process, but it is true

in this case in the interests of precision. Molten glass, on leaving the furnace at 1,250°C, is brought down to about 1,100°C before entering the stage at which the containers are formed.

This is done by passing the molten glass through the forehearth, a process which ensures that the glass reaches a uniform temperature when it is dispensed so that it has a uniform viscosity when formed.

If conditions are not uniform, problems such as poor formability and uneven weight distribution play havoc with the fast, complex forming equipment. Thus the forehearth is the vital last area of control in which the molten glass may be conditioned.

In the conventional method of gas-fired heating in the forehearth, heat is applied above the glass. The process relies on radiant heat transfer to the glass and thermal conduction through it. But glass is a poor thermal conductor.

In the new method, electrodes are inserted directly into the glass. Apart from small losses in the electrical equipment, all the energy is transferred to the glass. After five months of monitoring it was calculated that there would be a saving of 112,000 therms a year (at 20p a therm).

Kenneth Owen
and Ronald Kershaw

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Driving the overseas wedge into Lloyd's

American disclosure regulations may have forced Marsh & McLennan out into the open earlier than it would have liked with its possible bid for C. T. Bowring. Even so, he move seems impulsive and may have been born out of MGM's frustration that plans for an ambitious premium pooling arrangement have foundered after eighteen months of hard talking.

It is not wholly clear why the pooling plan has failed though Bowring puts the blame squarely in the American's court. What is clear though is that with Bowring spitalized at around £135m before suspension and presumably able to command a premium of at least 50 per cent, M & M will be taking on quite a challenge if it is to go ahead, even now that it can be equity in part payment. MGM's current capitalization is around \$970m (£443m).

One particularly odd aspect of the move is M & M's insistence that it would not like to upset Lloyd's, which it views as its most important market, and would thus go along with any general or particular ruling from Lloyd's's court.

This would mean that having taken over Bowring, M & M would be obliged to sell off 1 per cent of the broking interests in the way that Frank B. Hall was obliged to divest itself of three-quarters of Leslie & Edwin. Thus even a successful takeover over would leave M & M with United Kingdom subsidiaries like Singer and Friedlander, Bowmaker and a small shipping vision, but only 25 per cent of the division which currently provides about two-thirds the profits.

At the same time just as Lloyd's is unwelcome to M & M so the reverse is true, the American leader supplying roughly as much as a quarter of total annual premiums of £200m annually. Whatever the outcome of this move the pressure is on Lloyd's to come up with a solution to the dilemma over foreign control which appears more satisfactory to its giant American suppliers.

Without the Government

Actually the Government has been withdrawing from its involvement in ICL. First all there was an end to the loans, worth £10m (and still to be repaid—although on margins related formula which makes it likely that the day of retribution will never arrive), for the development of the series 00 computer; then a term (1980) was set for the preferential procurement policies applied by government departments; and with the reconstituted NEB has sold its 25 per cent stake in the company. So, the Government can do very well without ICL; it can ICL do without the Government? In the short-term the answer is evidently yes. The company's profits are on a strongly jagged trend; the end to preferential procurement, although potentially a threat to less (some 5 per cent of turnover is involved directly; may be as much as 18 per cent if local authorities and Government agencies are included) is unlikely to have immediate repercussions; and though the sharp rise in the interest charge last year, and the absence of information on cash requirements, it is plain enough that ICL can, if necessary, make do on internal resources in the foreseeable future. Is over what happens thereafter, that the nations ought to arise.

The company itself points out first, that £40m in loans notwithstanding, some £100m in cash was found internally; second, that since development now is evolutionary rather than revolutionary, next bout of heavy development spending is maybe 20 years away.

Given good management ICL should not be hampered by the sort of problems that tempt to integrate English Electric computers and ICL created in the early 1970s. If the cash requirements are under control, there are still questions over the market.

At the moment ICL looks quite capable of dealing with the opposition; but its long-term opportunities are likely to be

determined by policies laid down by the EEC. So doing without the Government is a relative matter.

SUMIT Unquoted possibilities

The vogue for small companies is looking a little long in the tooth now and perhaps dangerous as the recession starts to bite. But it is still a tempting bandwagon to get on to if you can get the sums right.

The trick first is to find the funds (not necessarily difficult since the institutions became subject to moral pressure from successive governments and various committees like Wilson) and second to find the companies worth investing in. The latter is much more difficult as people like Equity Capital found out.

But a new vehicle, SUMIT (Sharp Unquoted Midland Investment Trust), may have an advantage in that it is Birmingham-based and well-versed in the ways of the West Midlands where of course a great untapped source of small companies still exists. SUMIT, the brainchild of brokers Albert E. Sharp, has collected an impressive list of eleven institutions as shareholders each of whom have committed between £250,000 and £750,000 to subscribe in a private placing of £1,040m equity and £4.16m 5 per cent preference stock (this to be drawn down over an anticipated three year period), £520,000 being available at the outset.

SUMIT is looking for sound unquoted companies in which it would take a maximum stake of 40 per cent (though ideally more like 20 per cent) and where it can get an initial yield of between 7 and 9 per cent rising to 15 per cent or more through a participating preference capital formula. These preference shares could be converted into equity at any time.

The snag now is to find those investments and to ensure that once made they continue to perform. A stake as small as 10-15 per cent should leave the proprietors with sufficient incentive, but there will always be concerns about losing even this amount of control, especially as SUMIT will insist quite reasonably on close monitoring.

It remains to be seen whether SUMIT can come up with the West Midlands investments that have so often eluded "foreigners" from London, but its argument could well be more persuasive if a buy-back clause was included, something which SUMIT is not prepared to do at this stage.

Oil Waiting on Opec

Hopes that the world oil picture would clear in 1980 to make oil investment less of a hit-and-miss affair now appear to have been dashed by the events in the run-up to the Opec meeting in Caracas. Last week's initiative from the doves led by Saudi Arabia to take the sting out of the hawks' more strident price demands appears to have been neutralized by Libya's move to lever up the general price level by putting up its price to more than \$30 a barrel before the official two-day meeting got under way.

And it looks increasingly unlikely that there will be an early return to the unified pricing structure which would help prevent the price leap-frogging of the past year.

The Department of Energy warned no time yesterday in letting it be known that North Sea oil prices would follow Opec prices up sooner rather than later, although there was little immediate follow through in North Sea companies with large producing interests.

Current valuations for North Sea shares highly geared to the oil price—and by and large that means the smaller groups like Ultramar, Lamsco, Tricentrol although ICL's Ninian share is now starting to influence even its level of profits—appear to be fully valued on current oil prices.

Plainly there are considerable doubts about the extent to which prices can go on rising in real terms in the face of the expected recession and the West's commitment to cut back oil imports.

In these last few weeks the world's monetary and banking system has been passing through its worst crisis since 1955.

In the years since the 1973-74 oil price explosion, the international banking system has performed admirably the essential function of recycling the huge Opec surpluses to those countries that were in consequent balance of payments deficit. This task is likely to become an even more important one after the Opec meeting at Caracas.

The root of the problem is that the financial war between Iran and the United States has sent a spasm through the banking system. The result of this spasm is an inevitable contraction of the system's capacity to perform the task it has undertaken in the last five years. The technical default on the Iranian borrowings, declared by the American banks led by the Chase Manhattan, has exposed the high-wire banking act for what it is, namely an act without much visible means of support.

Two episodes from recent history throw this present crisis into high relief. First, Turkey. When the four leaders of the western world met together at the Gaudeloupe summit in January they concluded that Turkey could not be allowed to go bankrupt.

Turkey was a test case for the non-Communist world. It does not qualify as a "Less Developed Country". It has a democratic government. It is key to the

southern flank of Nato. It must be saved.

But most studies, including one commissioned from leading western merchant banks by the Turkish central bank, concluded that Turkey owed some \$14,000m to banks and required \$12,000m a year for the next five years to have any chance. Further, the sum should be committed in advance so that the Turkish Government could base its long-term planning upon it.

After Gaudeloupe the Germans were given the lead, in view of their close commercial and banking interests in Turkey. The initial promises were in the order of \$15m from Britain, \$100m from the United States and effectively nothing from the French. The Japanese indicated that they were less than interested because they had not been invited to Gaudeloupe.

The conclusion is clear. The sums involved in these financial problems are way beyond what any national government can take, either in terms of its own budget or in terms of the willingness of its public opinion to shoulder massive aid burdens.

The second episode concerns the United Kingdom in the autumn of 1976. The initial International Monetary Fund position, when Mr Callaghan's government was faced with the great sterling crisis, was that there should be no public spending cuts, accompanied by a substantial devaluation of sterling.

(The idea that the pound should go down to \$1.50 was closer to the surface than the IMF now like to admit). In return for this package, the IMF, it seems, would even have been prepared to condone substantial import controls.

The conclusion here is equally clear. The IMF has a very narrow mandate. It is concerned with providing finance to bridge temporary balance of payments deficits and it does so on the basis of austerity packages designed to remove the deficits within the short to medium term.

The number of democratic governments capable of imposing the 1976 austerity package and surviving without doing fundamental damage to the fabric of their societies can probably be counted on the fingers of two hands.

It is symbolic that, when the IMF team went on from London to Cairo, their prescription led to instant bread riots. It should be noted that the Turkish government of Mr Ecevit did not survive his negotiations with the IMF in 1978-79.

We are, however, not dealing with temporary payment deficits, but with long-term structural problems. Here the private banking system has the wrong terms of reference. It has to do the financing, because no one else can. But it has to pretend to itself that it is acting on the basis of hard-headed commercial reality.

Most of the debtor countries in the

world can only service their existing debts promptly if they can take up new borrowings promptly. And here lies the full significance of the present spasm. Banks have no option but to roll over and re-phase existing loans. However bad the situation, they can only put a good face on it. But after the events of these weeks they will collectively be very chary about entering into large new commitments. Bankers do not like having to explain to their shareholders why they are throwing more good loans after bad.

The general shape of the solution is obvious. The private banking system will need strengthening and support to carry on its function. Governments cannot perform it. The IMF has neither the resources nor the right mandate for the main job, however useful its ordinary function. Private banks have the right mechanisms. If they can be supported officially.

Jointly or severally, governments and central banks will be forced to set up some guarantee or insurance facility, run on commercial lines, with which the private banks can lay off the heavy country risks which the system requires them to bear.

A supranational Export Credits Guarantee Department might well serve as an initial model. If something of this kind is not done rapidly, the present spasm will rapidly turn into something altogether more serious.

How to keep the shop-floor in touch with reality

Apostolic calls for managers to go forth and spread the gospel of what the Confederation of British Industry calls "business realities" to employees, are growing a little shrill. Having repeated these themes continuously during the last month or so and sounding, he says, a little like "a worn out gramophone record", even John Medway, the CBI's director general and one of the most fervent believers in the idea, is starting to sound somewhat discouraged.

This is not surprising in view of the bombardment of industrial indicators showing continuing poor productivity and soaring unit costs relative to those of our main competitor countries.

It was not until the CBI embarked on its business realities campaign last month that many business leaders recognized the size of the communications chasm which has opened up between management and workers.

As an example of just how wide that gap is, a recent survey has shown 50 per cent of workers believe that companies in general are earning good profits. The reality is that overall profitability is at a record low.

The same research has shown that the majority of employees would have second thoughts about their pay claims if they thought their demands would damage future growth and investment.

The CBI launched its campaign to counter the ignorance implicit in the first of these opinion poll figures and build on the common sense in the second.

It has a hard job. What is quite clear is that a radical change in management as well as employee attitudes is needed. The sad truth is that most middle and junior managers do not know the true profitability of their operations.

If employees think profits are three times as high as the true figure, another CBI survey discovered that managers often think profits are twice as high as they really are; and only six out of ten managers could explain how profits are calculated and name the main items that account for a profit and loss account.

These are the people who are supposed to be providing a direct link with the shop-floor.

If they get it wrong then the lines of communication get in a tangle.

The minimum drill set down in the CBI's checklist of practical steps for explaining business realities to people at work, starts with the chief executive. He is asked to give a formal explanation of the company's performance and prospects at least twice a year, and preferably more often, to all managers.

But he can only do this if he understands what the performance and prospects are. He will, in addition, have to display a frankness which is by no means universal and which in the present dismal economic conditions may be thought to have undesirable repercussions on shareholders and sources of finance.

Returns

His understanding, of course, will be affected by the accounting procedures of his company—and most companies are still wholly wedded to the historic cost method. Traditional methods appear that British Companies should be giving a return on investment of 15 per cent.

But real profits, taking into account the true cost of replacing worn-out plant and equipment and such things as stockholding raw materials, amount to less than 3 per cent—the lowest figure ever recorded.

If these global statistics are broken down to individual company and plant level, the picture may be more frightening than the proprietors care to contemplate let alone pass on to the world in general or their own workers in particular.

Even if the information is to be used by management to help them to make the right decisions, the fact that they attempt to get the facts to the men on the shop-floor. For in many heavily unionized plants with negotiating machinery built up probably over a very long period, it would simply be unthinkable for management to discuss the implications of a pay claim face-to-face with the men on the shop-floor.

Despite the difficulties, radical action is needed. But given the scale of the problem, it would be wrong to expect quick results. The danger is of giving up too soon.

Patricia Tisdall

No respite for the shipbuilders

State owned British Shipbuilders yesterday announced a trading loss of £53m for the first six months of the year. Peter Hill reports

British Shipbuilders set a precedent for itself yesterday by publishing for the first time in its short life a half-year financial statement. In contrast with the voluminous half-year statement of the loss-making British Steel Corporation the shipbuilders' 54-word long statement is a masterpiece of brevity.

The shipbuilding organization restricted itself to stating simply that the trading loss for the first six months of the year had amounted to £53m and said that it "believes" that the trading loss for the full year will be within the financial limit set by Sir Keith Joseph in the summer. This will involve keeping losses down to a level of £100m after taking account of assistance from the Government's shipbuilding intervention fund which is used to provide a subsidy to borrow the gap between British prices and those of overseas competitors.

In its first nine months of existence, BS recorded a loss of £108m and last year, its first full financial year, the loss was £49.5m although that figure excluded £12m in respect of restructuring costs which fell outside the scope of the Government's loss limit.

Next year the accounting policies are being changed so that the loss in 1980-81 will have to be kept to £90m before money from the intervention fund is included.

On that basis, and given that the Government has set a limit of £55m of intervention fund aid for next year (against £65m this year), the corporation will be forced to reduce its trading loss to only £35m if all of next year's intervention fund money is to be used.

The storm comes after already been isolated. Mr Philip Harris, managing director of finance at BS said recently: "Sustained efforts will have to be made by all concerned to achieve our

targets. As far as cash is concerned we are in serious danger of not being able to live within the limits set by Government."

BS is operating with a cash limit of £250m for the current financial year but the corporation is already in danger of over-spending and action has had to be taken to cut expenditure.

Sir Keith Joseph has consistently made it clear that he considers that the taxpayer is not prepared to continue funding unprofitable enterprises and that philosophy applies as much to BS as it does to British Steel.

About half of this year's £65m of intervention fund aid has already been committed on the 30 or so orders gained towards the corporation's target of 45 ships. This is the base-load required to keep the merchant yards going through the two or three lean years ahead.

The Government is still committed to disposing of certain of the BS assets to the private sector—"at the appropriate time"—that remains as much a way off and will almost certainly encompass only the naval yards. The merchant yards—with some exceptions—face a short-term future of almost unrelieved gloom.

The reduction in the industry's workforce since nationalization—two-and-a-half years ago has involved the loss of about 10,000 jobs. More jobs are due to go in the new year

and the failure to attract a minimum of 10 orders will mean still more reductions in the labour force.

The prospect of a national steel strike has already sent shipyard purchasing managers scurrying in search of alternative supplies and the strike, if it occurs, will certainly blow BS off its financial course. Like British Steel the shipbuilding organization cannot afford a cost-of-living pay increase for its 77,000 workers and executives will be appealing for common sense from the rest of the shipyard unions.

Improved efficiency and productivity are now absolutely vital to BS if it is to get through its difficulties. But there are other ways in which costs could be cut. The continued existence of two prestige headquarters blocks, one in Knightsbridge, London, and the other at Newcastle upon Tyne, is something which Sir Keith and his officials may start to question.

BS has consistently argued that it is necessary to maintain two headquarters, despite the duplication of office services, and the not inconsiderable costs involved in executives commuting twice a week between London and the North-east.

The other factor which BS has to weigh is the state of world shipbuilding market prices. Costs of building in Britain are about 30 per cent higher than elsewhere but the corporation is only able to subsidize to the tune of 25 per cent of the cost of ships ordered in the United Kingdom.

Much of the delay involved in securing the much needed orders for Govan Shipbuilders on Clyde last week was caused by the BS request for the EEC Commission to approve a level of subsidy of between 25 to 30 per cent. The Commission, which is anxious to secure a progressive reduction in state aid to shipbuilding, is taking a hard line on aid beyond agreed levels. It can be expected to get even tougher.

Business Diary: Korans, coypus and Cambridge

Cambridge University Press is one of the publishers licensed print the Bible, so they're right to a good thing. But P, up to date in many ways, is not print the Koran.

"I don't think the question ever came up," Andrew Brown, CUP's Islamic editor, told me. "The world would not be so much off with the Koran already."

Nevertheless, the tide of wars in the Middle East has shed to advantage against P's doors. Says Brown: "I think it probably true that the recession which scholarly publications have experienced in the seventies, certainly in the eighties, has not been reflected in Islamic publications."

More and more students, says Brown, are enrolling in Islamic studies classes up and down the country whether as a full or a subsidiary subject.

CUP is heaving away at this task, having been lucky enough to have published in 70 Lampton, Lewis and Holt's two-volume Cambridge History of Islam, since 1976 available as four paperbacks.

CUP apparently received no cash from the Shah's time towards the capital cost of the six-volume Cambridge History of Iran which began to appear 10 years ago. Contrary to academic tradition, Volume One—W. E. Sherer's *The Land of Iran*—was the first to appear. However, since then, the Shah's

cash has been used to pay off the Shah's debts. However, since then, the Shah's cash has been used to pay off the Shah's debts. However, since then, the Shah's cash has been used to pay off the Shah's debts.

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Limitations on public spending are having an effect, peculiar to the fens, of sparking off a Coypu (illustrated right) baby boom. The Great Ouse Land Drainage Committee, which meets in Cambridge, has been told there will be no extra Mr. de Ar. cash to help put down the Coypu babies who are said to do about £2m-worth of damage a year to river banks.

One Fellow of whom young relatives might entertain legitimate hopes this Christmas is Richard Newton, the bursar of Trinity Hall.

Newton has just attended his first board meeting as a non-executive director of the toy maker Berwick Timpco. The invitation was at the suggestion of Hill Samuel, adviser to Berwick as it was once on the textiles company Bury & Masco.

Until three years ago, when Bury & Masco was taken over by Scapa Group, Newton was Scapa's chief executive. Trinity Hall thereupon took over Newton, and he has been running the college's finances, and directing its investments ever since.

He told me: "I don't have any teaching duties. I am in touch with the undergraduates if they get into some sort of financial problem."

Not long after Newton, who read classics at St John's, came to Trinity he was headhunted as a directorship of dry-cleaning. Sketchley, a job he

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Sir John Stewart-Clark is a Balliol man and it therefore took something of an effort to reconcile himself to Cambridge. Until 1974 he was more familiar with Cambridge, Massachusetts, than Cambridge, England, having done a spell at the Harvard Business School.

Nevertheless, in that year he became managing director of the electronics company, Pye of Cambridge. He held this post until he was selected for (not unexpectedly for a lifelong Tory) and won his home constituency of East Sussex in this year's Euro-elections.

He told me: "The trouble with being in business and in Cambridge is that business takes up so much of your time that you have to make a special effort or you don't get the best out of being there at all."

He had vowed to have a political as well as a business career, and with the Euro-elections, he knew that he might not be in Cambridge forever.

Sir John is now treasurer of the European Democratic Group at Strasbourg, and has just signed up as a political weather-forecaster with A. T. Kearney.

Sir Duncan Wilson, the Master of Corpus Christi, tells me that the Committee of Enquiry into Records that he chairs is to report in the new year.

He has been burrowing away for the last two years at a radical view of the public records system with the help of Margaret Gowing, Professor of the History of Science at Oxford, Paul Osmond, Secretary to the Church Commissioners, and the committee's secretary, Graham Aylett, of the Department of Education and Science.

Their job has been to see how well the system established a quarter of a century ago by the CBI Committee has been working. Since then the Public Record Office and departmental records officers within government have selected and preserved such records as might assist historians in the future.

Sir Duncan's committee was not asked to appraise the need for the 30-year rule on the release of state papers, and has been further circumscribed in its recommendations by a political atmosphere that rules out any wheezes involving more public spending.

"We are concerned at the very great increase in the number of records, and with the possibilities of machine-readable data", he says.

"There is, for example, a great increase in interest in social history, which needs to draw upon public health and census material, but it is no use recommending every department immediately invests in computers and in getting them working."

Businessmen who commute from Heathrow to Paris fly from Terminal One. If travelling British Airways and from Terminal Two it is with Air France. To make their lot a little easier the British Airways Authority has been busy building a smaller terminal in the middle of the two, at which all Paris services, as well as those to a number of other European points, will depart and arrive.

Unfortunately for the peripatetic executive, work on this £8m project has stopped and will remain stopped for anything up to six months, while the BAA moves into its next financial year. "Reductions in the capital programme to comply with government cash limitations", is the official reason.

Put simply, the authority has run out of building cash; and, as present rules prevent it laying its corporate hands on any of the money it has invested outside, it has had to send the builders home for the time being.

I tried hard, but fruitlessly, during my stay in Cambridge to hear the Great Hun, the sound that has bothered the locals for as much as 11 years. My researches, unfortunately, were blotted out by the tinkling of ice cubes and the clink of glasses in that convivial place. I think it is a bit much, though, that the researchers trying to pin down this inconvenient noise are not from Cambridge—but from the Department of Acoustics at Chelsea College, London.

Ross Davies

THOS. W. WARD LIMITED
Preliminary announcement
For the year ended 30th September 1979

- TRADING PROFIT up 19% (53% in past two years)
- NET PROFIT before taxation up 28% (98% in past two years)
- EARNINGS per share up from 15.8p to 21.0p
- DIVIDENDS increased 25% to 8.9p per share

- Results of rationalisation and better control reflected in performance
- Group financial position strong
- Confidence in facing expected economic difficulties

	1979 £000	1978 £000
Turnover	254,893	226,930
Trading Profit		
Iron and steel	4,283	2,760
Construction	7,092	7,160
Engineering	1,663	1,280
Motor vehicle distribution	2,990	2,295
Industrial services	1,572	1,321
	17,600	14,816
Profit before taxation	15,090	11,831
Earnings	12,076	8,948
Dividends (paid and proposed)	3,234	2,456
Profit retained	8,856	6,631
Fully diluted earnings per share	21.0p	15.8p
Dividends per ordinary share	8.9p	7.1p

Registered Office: Thos. W. Ward Ltd, Albion Works, Savile Street, Sheffield S4 7UL

FINANCIAL NEWS

Scrap metal aids Thos Ward

Mitchell
a difficult year which
the engineering strike
re weather, heavy
and cement manu-
Thos W. Ward turns
of full-time figures.
year to September 30
made £15m pre-tax
1.8m on turnover up
to £263m.
The improvement is
to the rise in
prices. Volume was
unchanged and
prices fell back in
half they remained
above the previous

year's average. The profit con-
tribution from iron and steel
rose from £2.7m to £4.2m.
Following the relaxation of
the rules prohibiting the export
of scrap metal, Ward has
increased its overseas sales
particularly to Spain.
The reorganization of the en-
gineering division, which in-
volved the sale and close down
of the loss-making subsidiaries,
has helped it improve despite
the strike.
A strong demand for cars has
boosted profits of the motor
distribution division though the
previous comparable period
was depressed by the Ford
strike.
Borrowings over the past year

have been cut back.
Three years ago net borrowings
amounted to 112 per cent of
shareholders funds. But the
gearing is now reduced to only
23 per cent. The group is once
again looking to expand
through acquisition, either in
quarries or general industrial
supplies.
In the past financial year the
group generated a cash inflow
of some £6m. The board is con-
fident that 1980 profits will
again rise and market estimates
centre around £16.5m.
For shareholders there is a
rise in the year's dividend of a
third to 8.8p, covered 2.6 times.
The shares, up 1p to 80p yes-
terday, yield 11 per cent.

Haywood Williams' 38pc advance

Phillips
Haywood Williams now holds
99 per cent of FPA's issued
shares and it is making formal
application to acquire the out-
standing shares. As the half-
year ended in October the in-
terim figures include no con-
tributions from FPA.
Mr Oliphant says that these
will come through in the second
half year but warns share-
holders that the period is not
the best time of the year for
FPA's principal activities,
housebuilding and boat hiring.
Mr Oliphant reports that all
divisions performed well during
the six months with the alu-
minium extrusion and glass-
manufacturing divisions experi-
encing particularly buoyant
markets.

He says that the engineering
division did not seriously under-
mine the group but he estimates
that it cost Haywood Williams
around £150,000 in lost profits.
The United States division,
restaurants and hotel manage-
ment, had a disappointing time,
mainly due to the American oil
crisis earlier. But Mr Oliphant
reports an improvement and the
division is looking forward to a
good Christmas.
The medium-term outlook is
good, Mr Oliphant predicts, and
Haywood Williams is expected
to turn in pre-tax profits in the
order of £1.5m at the end of the
current year, although the chair-
man will only forecast an im-
provement on last year's
£1,032m.

At the half-way stage Jackson
had turned in sales of £13.4m
and pre-tax profits of £1.52m in
the face of the hauliers' strike
and the Ford dispute. The
second six months are always
weaker, the group says, thanks
to holidays, but this time the
period was made more difficult
by the engineers' dispute. Mr
Philip White, chairman, esti-
mates that the dispute cost
Jackson around £300,000 of
pre-tax profits.
The engineering strike caused
a backlog of orders and high
stocks which are reflected in a

H B Jackson manages rise of 23pc

based iron and steel
J. & H. B. Jackson,
the profits growth
a 23 per cent surge
arising September
profits moved up
£5m to £275m, but
a extra £275,000 from
the sale of quoted
s. Last year's share
tripped in £489,000 to
tax profits taking the
to £2,779m.
Performance is on
only 6 per cent from
£24.09m.

much lower tax charge of only
£482,000 against £817,000. But
the stocks have contributed to
a good start to the current half
year, the chairman says.
Jackson's forgoing division did
well during the year and it is
expected to improve over the
next two or three years as a
result of solid orders from the
aerospace industry. Against this
the engineering was down by
around 10 per cent, a symptom
of the summer dispute.
The chairman states that the
current year has started off
buoyantly.

WINSTON ESTATES
Eagle Star Insurance now holds
1.06m shares (18.11 per cent) in
Winston Estates. Trevor S. Pas-
more and family interests hold
£37,000 (10.12 per cent). Pres-
ent Trust holds 436,500 shares
(7.4 per cent).

Nat Carbonising's plan

By Michael Priest
National Carbonising, the
smokeless fuel, mining and in-
vestment group, has seen pre-
tax losses in the first half to
September 30 rise to £51,000
to £206,000. But Mr Graham
Ferguson Lacey, the 31-year-old
evangelist who became chair-
man of the troubled company in
August, has ambitious plans.
Since the accounts were
drawn he has concluded it is
close to concluding agreements
to realize £45,000 from the sale
of the loss-making engineering
company AOT Flowmeters, and
£150,000 from selling mining
interests in Cumbria.
This eliminates two of
National Carbonising's main
losers. The deficit on mineral
mining and exploration in the
first half was £104,000, while
that on engineering was £82,000.
There is also the possibility of
further gains from disposing of
properties associated with the
engineering side. NCC Com-
mercial Vehicles was sold in
November for £1.7m.
These disposals, which Mr



Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey
chairman of National Carbonising.

which earned £110,000 in the
first half year; a Cumbrian
tungsten mine, Carrock Fell,
currently losing money; a 6.8
per cent stake in London,
Scottish and Marine Oil; and
about 5 per cent in a Bermuda-
based company, Weeks Petro-
leum.
The last two are the basis
of Mr Ferguson Lacey's plans
for switching out of the in-
dustrial sector into energy.
They represent 100p and 80p
respectively of National Car-
bonising's net assets value of
about 183p a share. If either
were to be the object of a bid,
National could cash in hand-
somer.
Mr Ferguson Lacey denies
any intention of selling either
Carrock Fell or Rexco. Geo-
logical proving is in progress
at the mine and could indicate
higher grade tungsten ore than
has hitherto been found. He
sees a strong future for smoke-
less fuel, as coal use increases,
and for Rexco's byproducts.
Nevertheless, the shares fell 7p
to 121p yesterday.

N BRITISH STEEL
Pre-tax profits of the steel
foundry and engineering group
North British Steel plummeted to
£7,000 from £1m for the year to
September 29, 1979. Turnover dur-
ing the 12 months fell from
£9.37m to £9.08m.

ger of A. R. Sugden & Co
(Engineers), manufacturers of
hi-fi equipment. The company has
factories at Brighouse and Helms-
ley (Yorkshire).
TRICENTROL
Tricentrol travel group—part of
Tricentrol Industrial Corporation
—has acquired coach
business of G. Howlett and Son
(Queens) and its subsidiary, L.
Pole and Son. This increases
Tricentrol's overall fleet of
coaches from 75 to 95 and brings
total fleet strength in the East
Midlands area to 45 coaches.
an announcement.

in these days of high interest
rates it is some comfort to know
that what little profit is available
is being eaten up by heavy
servicing of debt.
JAMES GRANT (EAST)
Profits for nine months to Octo-
ber 31, £546,000 (against £503,000)
after deferred service charges, but
before tax.
ARLEN ELECTRICAL
Arlen has made further allot-
ment of 500,000 ordinary shares in
payment for Electronic and
Fluorescent Accessories.

Briefly

WINSTON ESTATES
Eagle Star Insurance now holds
1.06m shares (18.11 per cent) in
Winston Estates. Trevor S. Pas-
more and family interests hold
£37,000 (10.12 per cent). Pres-
ent Trust holds 436,500 shares
(7.4 per cent).

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(Engineers), manufacturers of
hi-fi equipment. The company has
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E. J. RILEY
Confidence that E. J. Riley, the
snooker and furniture group, will
continue to prosper in the new
year is expressed by the chair-
man, Mr Alan R. Deal, in his
annual report.
A. R. SUGDEN
Mr Ian Partridge, FCA, a partner
in Partridge, Deal & Co., has
been appointed receiver and man-

GUINNESS PEAT GROUP
Company has purchased Ronald
Oney and Partners, marine boat
insurance brokers, for £618,000.
A further sum based on the
adjusted profits of the group's UK
marine broking business will be
paid.
LEEDS & DISTRICT DYERS
Chairman says in his annual
statement that trading at the
moment is extremely difficult.
Liquid resources are adequate and

DUPEL INTERNATIONAL
Chairman reports in his annual
statement that the board expects
a further increase in profit in
1979-80.

E BORDER & SOUTHERN
HOLDERS TRUST
LIMITED

Managers—JOHN GOVETT & CO. LTD.
Year summary of results

	Per Share Earnings	Per Share Dividend	Per Share Currency Premium
ended October	1.14p	0.95p	54.7p
6	1.33p	1.10p	62.6p
7	1.64p	1.50p	78.9p
8	1.83p	1.70p	87.3p
9	2.39p	2.20p	86.8p

Total Net Resources £89,068,843
U.K. 66.9% North America 18.9%

from Mr. C. Alan McLintock's review

net asset value was scarcely changed over a year in
markets fluctuated substantially. In London, the All-
index rose 11.6 per cent and its equivalent on Wall
rose 6.6 per cent in dollar terms. However, 1978/79
ear for British investors to stay in their own market,
he pound appreciated from \$1.97 to \$2.19 and the
cost currency premium fell from 40 per cent to 15 per
the American index is adjusted for currency and
m, it shows a fall of 21.6 per cent.
must enjoyed a substantial increase in revenue, whilst
s per share have risen by nearly 31 per cent. This
part, due to exceptional increases in U.K.
ds resulting from the ending of dividend restraint
earnings of 2.39p, the Board recommended total
ds of 2.20p, compared with 1.70p last year. An
onal dividend of 0.35p, payable as a special interim
year to 30th September, 1980, has also been
A commitment to manufacturing industry and to
ers in the U.K. has been reduced and we have built
energy sector of our portfolio world-wide, but
in North America where most opportunities
We retain our faith in Japan and the Pacific area
justify that the short-term outlook there also is poor.
pose gradually to build up our overseas investments
far as this is consistent with the continuing rise in
c and dividends which we believe remains of
tute concern to shareholders.

The Eleco
GroupConstruction
and Engineering

Points from the Statement by the
Chairman, Mr. Frank Webster, for
Year ended 30th June, 1979.

- ★ Turnover up by 34% to £16.7m.
- ★ Pre-tax Profits up by 49.5% to a new record of £1.66m.
- ★ Dividends up by 50%.
- ★ "The Group is well equipped to face short term pressures and will be in a commanding position in its specialised fields when the situation becomes more settled."

Copies of the Report and Accounts for the year ended
June 1979 are available from the Secretary,
ELECO HOLDINGS LIMITED
Sphere Works, St. Albans, Hertfordshire.

MORE FINANCIAL
NEWS PAGE 22Martin the
Newsagent
at £3.3m

By Rosemary Unsworth
Martin the Newsagent has
pushed up profits, but not to
the £4m mark which the mar-
ket expects.
Turnover rose by 12 per cent
to £85.8m, while pre-tax profits
gained 6 per cent to £3.36m in
the year to September 30, 1979.
With the sale of its un-
economic branches, con-
fidence has been sold or closed
this year—the group is plan-
ning to buy some established
stores, fit out 12 new sites and
redevelop six existing branches.
Martin now has nearly 500
shops, compared with NBS's
400.

Mr J. B. H. Merdis, chair-
man, said that total sales for
the ten weeks to December 9,
1979, showed a 13 per cent in-
crease over the same period
last year.
The group has also sold its
former head office and ware-
house in London for £640,000
in the current year.
The second quarter of the
year had been "very frustrat-
ing" for the group because of
newspaper strikes and the
transport dispute although a
good Christmas helped to off-
set some of the problems.
A final dividend of 7.48p
gross is proposed, compared
with 6.76p last year, making a
total of 12.1p, against 11.3p.

Disputes cost
Lucas £20m
in profits

The Engineering dispute
earlier this year will cost one
of Britain's biggest manufactur-
ing groups, Lucas Industries,
£20m in profits in the current
financial year, according to the
chairman, Sir Bernard Scott.
At the annual meeting, he
expressed concern at the
pattern of disruption which had
hit the engineering industry in
recent years. The trade unions,
he said, risked being identified
as a regressive, rather than a
progressive, force in British
industry.
Problems of maintaining un-
interrupted production, to-
gether with the continuing weak-
ness of the United Kingdom
market, cast something of a
shadow over the company's
satisfaction at seeing its sales
exceed £1bn for the first time.
Sir Bernard said. Pre-tax
profits for the past year was
£70.74m.
While Lucas's overseas sales
continued to expand, having
tripled in the past five years, a
strong United Kingdom sales
and volume base remained vital
to the company's competitive-
ness, he said. For the third
year running the affairs of our
company have been disrupted in
the most major way by fac-
tors that in large measure have
been outside the control of the
company and most of its mem-
bers.
"In 1977 we had the tool-
makers' strike, which was con-
cerned with the principle of
maintaining the national wages
policy. Last year we had the
long Ford strike and much dis-
ruption at BL, followed by the
hauliers' damaging dispute in
January," said Sir Bernard.

Tickets to Success
For the Burton Group in 1979

All sectors of the Burton Group contributed record profits to
the 1979 results making the Group's jubilee year a real cause
for celebration with profit before tax totalling £17.5m, more
than two and a half times last year's figure.

- * Burton made an outstanding comeback after ex-
tensive modernisation and reorganisation, regaining
market leadership and increasing the chains scope
for further success.
- * Top Man, a new addition to the Group, was
highly profitable and will be expanded by 25%
in the coming year.
- * Both sales and profits increased by almost
30% in the womenswear divisions with Top
Shop making a major contribution.
- * The acquisition of Dorothy Perkins
accelerated the drive into the womens-
wear market.
- * Ryman's move into the home
products area resulted in good
progress for these shops.
- * Productivity and the level
of quality continued to improve
at all factories.
- * Property assets are now valued at
£5 per share.
- * Over 4,000 employees benefit from first ever
profit sharing allocation.

Board recommendations at the Annual General
Meeting will include enfranchisement, a
one-for-one capitalisation issue and a final divi-
dend of 7p per share (10p for year).

Annual General Meeting

ERIC SOSNOW
REPORTS...

INCREASED PROFITS
Group trading profits £3,382,000 (from
£2,571,000)—a 20% increase.

INCREASED DIVIDENDS
The total net dividend for the year
amounts to 1.937p per share including a
special dividend of 0.537p—two and a
half times last year's.

INCREASED BONUS
To reflect the continuing strength of the
Group the Directors recommended
this year a further bonus issue of
one for seven Ordinary shares.

OUTLOOK
"Judging by the management reports
for the first four months and by the value
of the order book, I am confident that
subject to unforeseen circumstances
we shall have another successful year"

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MERCHANTS LTD

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THE TIMES 1000
1979/80

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to world industrial and financial companies has the latest
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Please tell me more about your successful year.
Name _____ Address _____

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24 Oxford Street
London W1N 9DF

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